

The Kentucky Warbler

Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Vol. 96	February 2020	No. 1
---------	---------------	-------



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	3
THE FALL SEASON, AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2019	
Ronan O’Carra.....	4
KENTUCKY 2019-2020 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT	
James A. Wheat.....	20
NEWS AND VIEWS.....	34

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
birdky.org

- President James A. Wheat, Taylorsville
- Vice-President..... Teresa Noel, Lexington
- Corresponding Secretary Debby Tyson
3601 Schochoh Road, Adairville, KY 42202-8030
- Treasurer Steve Kistler
1335 Sam Goodman Road, Munfordville, KY 42765-7105
- Recording Secretary..... Janet Kistler, Munfordville
- Curator Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Louisville
- Councillors
- 2017-2020..... Rickey Shive, Bowling Green
- 2017-2020.....Jennifer Snyder, Elizabethtown
- 2018-2021..... Clay Bliznick, Hartford
- 2018-2021.....Mary Yandell, Louisville
- 2019-2022.....Jeremy Teague, Calvert City
- 2019-2022..... Ray Bontrager, Monticello
- 2019-2022.....JoAnn Bochman, Beckham Bird Club representative
- Past President Jeff Sole, Frankfort

Affiliate
Beckham Bird Club (Louisville)

The Kentucky Warbler

The journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *The Kentucky Warbler* is sent to current members. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. Send articles, field notes and other communications relevant to *The Kentucky Warbler* to the Editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

- EditorRonan O’Carra
1212 Litchfield Lane, Lexington, KY 40513-1794
ronan.o.carra@gmail.com
- Layout & Production Steve Brown
- Photo EditorMeg Brown
- Editorial Advisory Board Carol Besse, Blaine Ferrell
- Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC)..... Brian Wulker
3476 Alta Vista Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211
bdwulker@gmail.com

THE COVER

We thank Pam Spaulding for her photograph of the Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) taken 14 December 2019 in eastern Louisville, Jefferson County.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Birders,

As the new editor of *The Kentucky Warbler*, I would like to thank you for your patience and apologize for the tardiness of this year’s issues. When I came onboard, I was determined to help facilitate the continued publication of our journal. I wish to thank all those, too numerous to name, who have worked on *The Warbler* before me. I now know how much time they have given to the Kentucky Ornithological Society through this and other board commitments.

As we work hard to develop and get used to our publication processes, we will become more efficient and get our publication dates back on track. I’d had, on taking this position, an idea of what it would take to publish the journal and a timeline of how long it would take. Little did I know of what was to come.

During this pandemic I have had to adjust my expectations, both for *The Warbler* and my ability to go birding. To alleviate that I am happy to see how many more people have now come to realize the joy that birding and the outdoors can bring. Hopefully these realizations will develop, to increase the number of dedicated birders in Kentucky. We all need to work together to encourage these budding birders, no matter what their background or level of expertise and I look forward to meeting them and you all at future meetings.

Ronan O’Carra



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – Calloway Co., 10 October 2019, Jeremy Teague

THE FALL SEASON, AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2019

Ronan O'Carra

Climatic conditions during fall 2019 were highly variable. Temperatures during August and October were not far from normal, but September was the second warmest on record, with a state average nearly 7°F above normal. Precipitation levels hit both extremes during the fall season. Precipitation in September was the lowest recorded since records began and averaged 0.22 inches across the state (0.18 inches in the east), which was over 3 inches below normal. October, though, recorded precipitation levels of 6.34 inches, which was 3 inches above normal (7.13 inches in Central Kentucky being the highest level recorded). August levels were within the normal ranges.

Sightings are the result of 10,642 checklists with 137,754 individual observation records extracted from eBird with supplementary records from the BirdKy listserve. Comments about previous Kentucky bird records rely on the checklist by Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2019. Species order is based on Yandell 2019. Rarity highlights during the season included Mottled Duck, Harlequin Duck, Wood Stork and Swallow-tailed Kite.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s) or video(s); “au.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with recordings of call notes or song; “wr.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; “comm.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation or details of same were communicated by that person to those that reported it; “mo.” within the observer initials indicates that the observation was seen by multiple observers.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK – KBRC review required. A successful breeding pair was again recorded near New Concord in *Calloway*. A pair was first recorded on 15 September (ph. TQ, BWu)



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – Calloway Co.
10 October 2019, Jeremy Teague

and then again on 10 October in the presence of 7 young (ph. JrT). Other reports include a single bird that was reported at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, on 14 August, having been there for a few days prior (comm. SBt, ph. LH). A report of another individual in Owensboro on 30 August was also known to be at the location for a few days (comm. JSh, ph. RbR, ph. BaN SaN).

Snow Goose – 1 in Adairville, *Logan*, on 12 October was the earliest reported (ST) with the next date being 5 November at the Sauerheber WMA (ph. CC). 2500 at the Sauerheber WMA on 25 November was the highest number reported. Away from the Sauerheber WMA the highest number recorded was 250 in *Hopkins* on 4 December (BPB).

Ross's Goose – 1 continuing at Basil Griffin Park, *Warren*, was reported a number of times during the season (ph. RcS).



Ross's Goose – Warren Co.
16 November 2019, Rickey Shive

Greater White-fronted Goose – 3 separate reports of 140 in Adairville (ST), *Logan*, 75 in *Larue* (ph. RMd, JnS), and 36 in *Allen* (ph. RcS), on 12 October were the earliest reported. 2000 at the Sauerheber WMA on 27 November (LyB) was the highest number reported.

Cackling Goose – Reported at 2 locations. Basil Griffin Park and environs, *Warren*, hosted 6-12 individuals from 24-30 November (ph. RcS). 1 individual was reported in Sutherland, *Jefferson*, on 29 November (ph. InT, SnT, SuT).

Mute Swan – Reported in *Barren*, *Fayette*, *Oldham* and *Shelby*.

Tundra Swan – All reports were at the Sauerheber WMA, beginning with 3 on 1 November (KM) with 40 reported 2 days later (ph. BvC, DoS). 6 reports followed with a peak of 45 on 27 November (LyB).

Blue-winged Teal – 350 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 23 September (TD) was the highest number reported. 2 at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 18 November (HC) were the last reported.

Gadwall – 1 injured bird at Old Pumphouse Rd., *Pulaski*, on August 18 (RB) was a carryover from the summer and remained in situ for a couple of months (RD). The first migratory birds were 3 seen at Melco, *Jefferson*, 8 September (BPB). 200 at the

Sauerheber WMA on 3 November (DoS, BvC) was the highest number recorded.

American Wigeon – 8 at Camp #9 on 17 October (BPB) were the earliest reported. 150 at the Sauerheber WMA on 27 November (LyB) was the highest reported.

American Black Duck – A single duck in *Jefferson* on 19 September (RiF) was the first reported. 15 birds at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, on 6 November (RB) was the highest number recorded.

MOTTLED DUCK – KBRC review required.

A Mottled Duck of unknown provenance was first reported as a duck of indeterminate species at Melco on 17 August (ph. BPB, JBa) and seen for a few days after (ph. JBa, JW, mo.). Consultation with experts could not determine whether this was a pure Mottled Duck or Mallard x Mottled Duck hybrid. The uncertainty stems from the fact that there was streaking on the cheek whereas fresh molt is usually clean.

Northern Pintail – A single bird at the Camp #11, *Union*, 13 September (BWu) was the earliest reported.

Green-winged Teal – 1 at Melco on 24 August (ph. ErN, mo.) was the earliest reported. 120 in *Todd* on 25 November (JoH) was the highest number recorded.

Canvasback – 2 at Camp #9, *Union*, 17 October (ph. BPB) were the first recorded. 6 reports for the season. 47 at Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*, 24 November (RbR) was the highest number recorded.

Redhead – 5 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 23 October (LMc) was the earliest recorded. 350 at Waitsboro Rec. Area, *Pulaski*, 23 November (RD) was the highest number recorded.

Ring-necked Duck – 4 at Lower Douglas Lake, *Hardin*, 14 October (MrL) was the earliest date recorded. 400 at Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 15 November (JBa) was the highest number recorded.

Greater Scaup – A single bird on the Ohio River, *Jefferson*, 30 October (BPB) was the first recorded.

Lesser Scaup – 1 in *Fulton* on 2 August was the earliest recorded. The highest number recorded was 500 at LBL, *Lyon*, 14 November (CBz).

HARLEQUIN DUCK – KBRC review required. A female reported at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 6 November (wr. DR, RcS) is the third reported in the state.

Surf Scoter – There were reports from 4 locations all of which are documented. 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 24 October (wr. TB); 1 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 6 November (RB); 2 at Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 13 November (ph. LyB); 2 at KY Lake Dam 21 November (wr. BPB, MM).

White-winged Scoter – There were reports from 3 locations. The first at Fishing Creek Rec. Area, *Pulaski*, 1 November (ph. RD); 1 at Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston*, 14 November (wr. CBz); 1 at KY Lake Dam 21 November (BPB, MM).

Black Scoter – There were 2 sets of sightings reported. The first set involved 3 on Green River Lake, *Adair/Taylor*, 9 November (ph. RD) and 1 on the Ohio river, *Jefferson*, 13-24 November (ph. BPB, mo.).



Long-tailed Duck – Jefferson Co.
16 November 2019, Ron Hirsch

Long-tailed Duck – A group of 4 viewed from the Jeffersonville Waterfront, *Jefferson*, 16 November (wr. MA, PB, ph. RH, mo.) were the only birds reported.

Bufflehead – 2 at Jeffersonville Waterfront, *Jefferson*, 30 October (BPB) were the first reported.

Common Goldeneye – 2 at Ashland Park Riverview, *Jefferson*, 8 November (PB) were the first reported. 45 at LBL, *Lyon*, 14 November (CBz) was the highest number recorded.

Hooded Merganser – 160 at Lexington Reservoir 2&3, *Fayette*, 13 November (ROC) was the highest number recorded.

Common Merganser – 6 on Rockcastle River, *Jackson*, 8 August (ph. DPi) were probably the result of successful breeding.

Red-breasted Merganser – 4 at Garvin Brown Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 6 November (ph. JCa) were the first reported. 375 at Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 23 November (RB) were the highest number reported.

Ruddy Duck – 2 at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, on 19 October (PeR) were the first reported. 50 at Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston*, 14 November was the highest number reported.

Pied-billed Grebe – 3 at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 7 August (SRc) were the first reported. 55 on Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 23 October (LMc) was the highest number recorded.

Horned Grebe – 2 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 19 October (RD) were the first recorded. 117 at Waitsboro Rec. Area, *Pulaski*, 24 November (RD) was the highest number recorded.

Eared Grebe – One report. An individual bird that stayed for 2 weeks (9-23 November) on Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, and was visible from Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, (RB, LyB, RD, RB).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – KBRC review required. Birds seen earlier in the year returned to the Lexington location on 10 August (EIM) with one being last seen on 18 August (TrL). Another bird was seen in *Hardin* on 4 September (wr. JnS).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 1 at Fisherman's Lake, *Hardin*, 19 October (SnC, JnS) and 1

in Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 25 October (MY) were the last recorded.

Black-billed Cuckoo – There were 4 reports, all of single birds. 1 at Dupree Nature Preserve, *Garrard*, 8 October (wr. MKE) was the last recorded.

Common Nighthawk – 1 at Harrods Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 15 October (RH) was the last to be recorded. 152 in Adairville, *Logan*, 8 September (ST) was the highest number recorded.

Eastern Whip-poor-will – 6 reports in six different counties: *Rowan*, *Scott*, *Russell*, *Montgomery*, *Marshall* and 1 bird in *Nicholas* on 20 September (JCo) being the last reported.

Chimney Swift – 1 in *Jefferson* on the 23 October (MiH) was the last reported. Roosts of 2000 in Louisville, 28 September (PS) and 1800 in Lexington, 14 September (TnB, CKAS/ASK, mo.) were the highest numbers recorded.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1 adult male in *Spencer* on 4 November (BPB) was the last recorded.

Rufous Hummingbird – 2 reports. 1 HY male in *Madison* on 21 September (ph. BPB, TrN (previously banded) did not linger where as a HY female in *Oldham*, identified on 22 November (ph. ba. BPB) lingered through the rest of the season (mo.).

YELLOW RAIL – KBRC review required. A single bird at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 5 -7 October (wr. BPB, ph. RB, mo.) was the only recorded observation.

Virginia Rail – 2 reports. One heard in Peabody WMA on 1 August (TG, JGr) and one heard near Central City, *Muhlenberg*, 15 November (JBa).

Sora – Reports from 5 counties. 1 in *Logan*, 5 September (FL) was the earliest recorded and 1 in Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*, 15 October (DnR) was the last to be recorded. Others observed were: 3 in *Hart* 6 October (JSo); 2 in *Jefferson* 7 October (ph. LyB, mo.); a

single bird in Spindletop, *Fayette*, 12 October (LsC, mo.).

American Coot – A single bird at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, on 3 August (ph. JoH) was the earliest recorded by over a month. The second bird recorded was one at Basil Griffin Park, *Warren*, 8 October (ph. RcS). 1200 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 1 November (RD) was the highest number recorded.

Sandhill Crane – 1 in *Shelby* on 7 August (wr. LHz, MHz) was the first recorded. 800 on Beaver Creek, *Barren*, 29 November (LCr) was the highest number recorded.

Black-necked Stilt – Up to 32 individuals, comprised of several family units, reported on Open Pond, *Fulton*, 2 August (BPB, JP, HC) and 3 more at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, on the same day (ph. JP, HC) were present from the summer. The only observations away from *Fulton* was up to 4 in *Todd*, 26-27 August (ph. JoH).

American Avocet – Eight occurrences were reported. 2 at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 6 August (ph. MY, BY) were the first observed. 11 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 24 October (ph. ShA) was the highest number recorded. Birds were also reported in *Jefferson* (twice), *Franklin*, *Marshall*, *Bell* and *Hopkins*.

Black-bellied Plover – There were two reports. 3 birds were seen at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 22 August (ph. CC) and a single bird was seen near Trenton, *Todd*, 23 September (JoH).

American Golden-Plover – 1 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 14 August (ph. JoH) was the earliest recorded. There were also reports in *Jefferson*, *Todd*, *Henderson*, *Rowan*, *Union*, *Trigg* and *Pulaski*. All other reports were of 2 or fewer birds, with the last report of the season being from *Todd* on 10 October (JoH).

Semipalmated Plover – 14 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 2 August (JoH) was the highest number recorded. A single bird on Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 19 October (ph. SA, JoH) was the last to be recorded.

Upland Sandpiper – A single bird in *Jefferson* on 9-10 September (wr. ph. BPB, mo.) was the only reported occurrence.

Marbled Godwit – A single bird at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 25 August (ph. CC, mo.) was the only sighting recorded.



Marbled Godwit – Henderson Co.
25 August 2019, Steve Graham

Stilt Sandpiper – 1 bird at the WastePath/Clean Earth Facility, *Marshall*, on 27 October (JrT) was the last bird recorded. 11 on Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 27 August (RbR) was the highest number recorded.

Sanderling – 4 birds on the Mississippi River, *Fulton*, (RbS) and a single bird at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 8 September (ph. TrL) were the first reported. Other reports were of single birds at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 13-14 September (TQ, BWu, mo.), and Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 15 September (ph. RbC, DbC, RC). The last recorded bird was 1 at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 2-4 November (ph. RbC, mo.).

Dunlin – 1 near Trenton, *Todd*, 10 October (JoH) was the first reported. 16 at Lawson-Poindexter Rd Farm Pond, *Todd*, (SA, JoH) was the highest number recorded. Away from western Kentucky 2 birds were reported in *Jessamine* 24 October (SyP) and 2 birds showed well at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 9-11 November (ph. RbC, DbC).

Baird's Sandpiper – 1 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 14 August (ph. SRc) was the first to be recorded. Other reports were: 1 in *Jessamine* 25 August (SyP); 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 30 August-12 September

(ph. BWu, mo.); 2 were seen on 11 September (ph. JHo); 1 at Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 19-21 September (ph. RbC, mo.).

Least Sandpiper – 120 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 2 October (CBz) was the highest number recorded.

White-rumped Sandpiper – 1 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 9 September (ph. JoH) was the only report for the season.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper – 1 at Melco, *Jefferson*, 23-27 August (CBz, mo.) was the first to be reported. Other reports include: 1 at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 1-2 September (JW, DSv, ph. CC); 3 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 5 September (ph. JoH), 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 11-12 September (ph. JHo, JSo, DM); 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 13 September (JoH); 2 at Crappie Hollow, *Calloway*, 15 September (ph. TQ, BWu, mo.); a single bird at the same location 17 September (ph. DnR, AnL) was the last recorded.

Pectoral Sandpiper – 4 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 29 October (RD) were the last reported.

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 2 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 2 October (CBz) were the last reported.



Sanderling – Franklin Co.
3 November 2019, Robert Chadwick

Western Sandpiper – Seven reports from 5 different counties. 1 at Higgin Botham Pond, *Wayne*, 15 August (RB) was the first to be reported. Away from Western Kentucky 1 was seen in *Jessamine* 5-6 September (KyB, SyP, ph. ROC, mo.); 1 at Minor Clark Fish

Hatchery, *Rowan*, 12 September (DM); 1 again 24-26 September (ph. JHo, DL, TrN).

Short-billed Dowitcher – 12 at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 31 August (BvC, DoS, SuS) was the highest number reported.

Long-billed Dowitcher – Late birds were seen in *Todd*, 2 birds on 2-6 November (DbH, JoH) and 1 bird at a different location on 9 November (DbH).

American Woodcock – Single birds at the Ecological Research and Education Center, *Fayette*, (wr. DvW) and Ben Hawes Park, *Daviess*, (RbR) on 16 November were the last recorded.

Wilson's Snipe – 1 at Melco, *Jefferson*, 17 August (BPB, JBa) was the first reported. 35 in *Fulton* 20 November (CBz, BPB, MM) was the highest number reported.

Spotted Sandpiper – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 15 November (CBz) was the last reported.

Solitary Sandpiper – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 13 October (TSa, DvW) was the last reported.

Lesser Yellowlegs – 1 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 1 November (RD) was the last reported.

Willet – One report of a single bird at Frogue Pond, *Todd*, 16 August (ph. JoH, JBy).

Greater Yellowlegs – 21 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 23 September (JoH) was the highest recorded. The last report was of a single bird at Barren River Lake, *Barren*, 25 November (ph. wr. LCr).

Wilson's Phalarope – 2 reports of single birds from Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 1 August (ph. CC) and 22/27-28 August (ph. CC, RbR).

Bonaparte's Gull – 1 at Paintsville Lake, *Johnson*, 7 August (wr. DSv, LsC) was the first reported. 1200 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 8 November (RB) was the highest number recorded.

Laughing Gull – 4 reports. 2 at KY Dam Village, *Marshall*, 4 August (ph. BPB); 1 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 29 September (ph. ShA,

JoH), 1 at Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston*, 15 October (AnL, DnR); 1 at Smithland Dam, *Livingston*, 27 October (ph. BPB MM).

Franklin's Gull – 1 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 29 September (ph. TrN) was the first reported. 89 (possibly over 150) at the WastePath/Clean Earth Facility, *Marshall*, 27 October (ph. BPB, MM) was the highest number reported. The next highest was 18 at KY Dam Village, *Marshall*, 24 October (ph. JP, HC).

Ring-billed Gull – 3000 at the WastePath/Clean Earth Facility, *Marshall*, 21/29 November (MM, BPB, JrT) was the highest number recorded.

Herring Gull – A single bird at KY Dam Village SRP. *Marshall*, 4 August (BPB) was the first reported. 200 at the WastePath/Clean Earth Facility, *Marshall*, 29 November (JrT) was the highest number recorded.

Iceland Gull (Thayer's) – There was one report of 2 birds at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 21 November (ph. BPB, MM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – The earliest report was of a single bird at KY Dam Visitors Area, *Livingston*, 1 September (ph. TaS). The only report away from western Kentucky was of a single bird at Waitsboro Rec. Area, *Pulaski*, 23 November (wr. RB).

Least Tern – 68, including hatch year birds, near Hickman, *Fulton*, 22 August (AnL) was the highest number recorded. The last reported was 40 birds on the Mississippi, *Fulton*, 8 September (RbS).

Caspian Tern – 1 near New Concord, *Callo-way*, 27 September (HC) was the last reported.

Black Tern – 6 reports. 7 near Hickman, *Fulton*, 22 August (AnL) were the first reported. The others were: 3 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 26 August (JoH); 2 at Spindletop, *Fayette*, 30 August (ROC, NBr, DSv, LsC); 12 to 15 at Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 31 August to 1 September (JsK, EtR); 2 at Green Road, *Lyon*, 5 September

(CBz); 9 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 23 September (TD).

Common Tern – 5 reports. 1 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 23 September (TD) was the first reported. The other reports were: 1 at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall*, 27 September (GrB); 2 on Green River Lake, *Adair/Taylor*, 19 October (RD); 2 Waitsboro Rec. Area, *Pulaski*, 25 October (ph. RD); 2 at Smithfield Dam, *Livingston*, 27 October (ph. wr. BPB, MM) were the last to be reported.

Forster's Tern – 108 at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall*, 24 October (JP, HC) was the highest number recorded. A single bird at Barren River Lake WMA, *Allen*, 6 November (ph. RD, JBa, mo.) was the last recorded away from western Kentucky. 19 at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall*, 22 November (AnL) were the latest reported.

Red-throated Loon – There were two reports. A single bird at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 26 October (wr. ph. ShA, JoH) and a single bird at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 7 November (CBz, DL, JSo, JBa).

Pacific Loon – There were two reports both of single birds. One at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 6-8 November (wr. RB, mo.) and one at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 20 November (wr. CBz, DSi).

Common Loon – 1 at Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 3 August (wr. RB) was probably a carry-over from the previous season. The second bird reported was nearly a month later at KY Dam, *Marshall*, 1 September (ph. TaS). 100 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 7 November (BPB, JBa) was the highest number reported.

WOOD STORK – KBRC review required. A single bird showed up in a subdivision pond near Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, 6 November (ph. LNC, RD, mo.).

American White Pelican – 650 at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 25 October (AnL) was the highest number reported.

BROWN PELICAN – KBRC review required. A single bird was photographed on Cave Run Lake, *Bath*, 22 August (ph. SBt).



Brown Pelican – Bath Co.
22 August 2019, Scott Barrett

American Bittern – 1 at Sauerheber WMA, *Henderson*, 28 October (RbR) and 1 at Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 1 November (TG) were the only reported sightings.

Least Bittern – 3 at Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 1 August (ph. TG, JGr) and 1 at Camp #11, *Union*, 13 September (TQ, BWu) were the only birds reported.

Great Egret – 350 at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 11 September (ph. CC) was the largest number reported.

Snowy Egret – 1 at Guthrie Lake, *Todd*, 29 October (ph. JoH) was the last reported.

Little Blue Heron – 1 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 29 September (SA, JoH) was the last reported. 60 at LBL, *Trigg*, 1 August (BPB) was the highest number reported.

Cattle Egret – 7 at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 12 October (DvW, TSa) were the last reported. 300 roosting at LBL, *Trigg*, 1 August (BPB) was the highest number reported. Reports away from western Kentucky include 5 from *Jefferson*. 1 at Falls of Ohio 6 August (TrL); 2 at Ashland Park Riverview 23 August (MiC); 5 at Falls of Ohio 24 August (TB); 1 at Falls of Ohio 2 September (JBa); 1 at South Beargrass Creek Retention Basin 12 September (ph. LBa).

Green Heron – 1 at Cove Spring Park, *Franklin*, 28 October (JSo) was the last

reported. 32 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 24 August (DSv, LsC) was the highest number reported.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – Birds were reported at three locations. Cypress Creek, *Marshall*: 4 on 4 August (RD); 2 on 13 September (ph. JrT, TaS, TrN, mo.); 1 on 14 September (PB); 1 on 16 September (SnC). 1 at Mississippi River, *Fulton*, 8 September (RbS) and 2 at South Beargrass Creek Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 16 September (PS).

White Ibis – 2 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 1-4 August (BPB, mo.) were continuing from the previous season and were the only ones reported.

Osprey – 1 at Fishing Creek Rec Area, *Pulaski*, 22 October (RD) was the last reported.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – KBRC review required. 1 at Highland Cemetery, *Johnson*, 6 August (ph. RyR) was the only bird reported.



Swallow-tailed Kite – Johnson Co.
6 August 2019, Ray Reeder

Mississippi Kite – 10 appropriately at the Mississippi River, *Fulton*, 8 September (RbS) were the last reported. 50 to 75 at Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 28 August (SRc) was the highest number reported.

Red-tailed Hawk – A Harlan's morph continued through the season at Schochoh, *Logan*, 1-30 November (ph. ST).

Barn Owl – Reported from *Fulton*, *Graves* and *Jefferson*.

Short-eared Owl – 1 at Schochoh Rd, *Logan*, 10 November (ph. ST) was the earliest reported.

Northern Saw-whet Owl – A banding season netted a lowly total of 3 birds at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 2/8 November (ph. MM, BPB mo.).

Merlin – Reported from more than 30 locales during the season. Singles in *Campbell* on 6 September (wr. BWu), *Woodford* on 9 October (wr. JnS), and *Mercer* on 19 September (ph. KyB) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 1 at the Appalachian Wildlife Center, *Bell*, 27 September (DLd).

Peregrine Falcon – There were eight reports in eBird away from the vicinity of known nesting territories. These reports included a juv. at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 2 August (BPB, MM); a juv. at Fishing Creek, *Pulaski*, 26 September (ph. RD); 1 at Schochoh, *Logan*, 29 September (ph. ST) 1 at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 12 October (ME); a juv. in s. *Todd* 14 October (ph. ShA, JoH); 1 at Clay WMA, *Fleming*, 21 October (RD); 1 at Barren River Lake 8 & 10 November (JSo,DL & LCr); a juv. near Calvert City, *Marshall*, 9 November (ph. JrT).

Prairie Falcon – 1 (presumably a returning bird) was present at the end of Frostburg Rd., *Hopkins*, 25 November into December (wr. ph. BPB, mo.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – It was an exceptional season for the species with no fewer than 19 reports in eBird from 24 August-2 October. Singles along Brown Road, *Hopkins*, 29 September (BvC) and at Doug Travis WMA, *Carlisle*, 2 October (ph. BY) were the latest to be reported.

Eastern Wood-Pewee – The latest reports included singles in *Casey* 25 October (AsH), at the Long Point Unit 27 October (ph. BY), and at the Sauerheber Unit 28 October (wr. RbR).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – Singles in e. *Fayette* (wr. DSv) and Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson* (wr. BPB, mo.), 24 August were

the first reported. 1 at Turkey Run, *Jefferson*, 29 September (ph. wr. StB, JW, MBr) was the last reported.

Alder Flycatcher – There was one report: one heard calling (*pip* notes) at Camp #11, *Union* 18 August (BPB).

Willow Flycatcher – One was still at a breeding location along Bogle Road, *Warren*, 17 September (ph. wr. RcS) and was the last reported.

Least Flycatcher – One at Schochoh, *Logan*, 11 August (wr. ST) was the earliest reported by over 2 weeks. The second bird reported was on Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 26 August (PB). 1 in *Wayne* 8 October (wr. LyB) was the last reported.

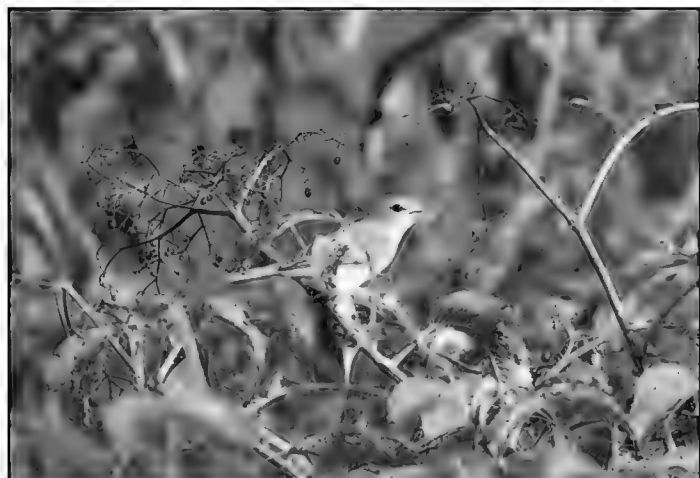
Eastern Phoebe – 1 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 30 November (RD) was the last reported.

Great Crested Flycatcher – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 26 September (GrB) was the last reported.

Eastern Kingbird – One at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 20 October (wr. SaR) was exceptionally late. The second-to-last report was at Harrods Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 1 October (wr. JeJ).

White-eyed Vireo – Singles in *Barren* 24 October (wr. LCr) and at Bowling Green, *Warren*, 2 November (BIF) were tardy.

Bell's Vireo – One e. of Murray, *Calloway*, 14 August (HC), represented a new locality. 2 in *Warren*, 31 August (ph. RcS) were the last reported.



Bell's Vireo – Warren Co.
31 August 2019, Rickey Shive

Yellow-throated Vireo – 1 in *Muhlenberg* 22 October (wr. TG) and 1 at Bowling Green 28 October (wr. SaT) were the last reported.

Blue-headed Vireo – 1 at Alpine Rec. Area DBNF, *Pulaski*, 3 November (RD) was the last reported.

Philadelphia Vireo – 1 at Pope Lick Park, *Jefferson*, 7 September (ph. BBC, mo.) was the first reported. 1 in *Warren*, 14 October (ph. RcS) was the last reported.

Warbling Vireo – 1 at Logan Hubble Memorial Park, *Lincoln*, 12 October (wr. JkE) was the last reported.

Blue Jay – 100 at the Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 8 October (JSo) was the highest number reported.

Purple Martin – Highest counts at roost sites included up to 30,000 at Richmond, *Madison*, during early August (mo.); 15,000 at Bowling Green, *Warren*, during early August (LMc et al.); and 10,000 at Stone Place Stables, ne. *Jefferson*, 10 August (JW).

Tree Swallow – A tally of 800 in *Casey* 15 October (AsH) represented the high count for the season.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 1 at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 3 November (ph. RbC) was the last to be reported.

Bank Swallow – Up to 2000 were staged in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, during early to mid-August (SRc).

Cliff Swallow – 300 were at Morgan Pond 17 August (NBr, JW); one lingered at Schochoh, *Logan*, to 29 September (wr. ST).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – It was not a major irruption year unlike the previous year. There were no photo documented results nor written notes to add clarity to whether birds were seen or heard to allow for an accurate summary. Anywhere between 4 and 17 reports.

Brown-headed Nuthatch – The birds at Ky Dam Village, *Marshall*, continued to be absent, not having been reported in more

than a year. The birds at London, *Laurel*, were present during the season but went unreported.

Brown Creeper – 1 in Prospect, *Jefferson*, 14 October (SuT, InT) was the first reported.

House Wren – 1 at Valley Oak Technology Complex, *Pulaski*, 24 November (RD) was the last reported.

Winter Wren – 3 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette* (ph. NBr) and 1 in *Hart* (JSo) 5 October were the first reported.

Sedge Wren – There were reports from ten locales during the season with possible nesting at Blue Grass Army Depot, *Madison*, 11 August (au. ph. DgM), likely nesting at the Camp #11, *Union*, during August (BPB, mo.) and fledged young heard calling in suitable breeding habitat at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, 8 September (BPB, LMc).

Marsh Wren – eBird contains reports of one to 3 individuals at 16 locales 16 September-15 October.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1 on Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 26 September (JW) was the last reported.

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 3 at Ben Hawes Park, *Daviess*, 8 October (RbR) were the first to be reported.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 18 September (RLa, mo.) was the first reported.

Gray Catbird – 1 at Mammoth Cave, *Barren*, 21 November (wr. LCr) and 1 at Ecological Research and Education Center, *Fayette*, 19 November (wr. DvW) were the last reported.

Eastern Bluebird – According to nest-box monitoring, it was a more successful year for the species at LBL and Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg* (RP).

Veery – There were reports from eight locales 31 August-17 September (mo.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – 2 in *Wayne* 1 September (wr. RB) were the first reported. 1 in

Pulaski 13 October (RD) was the last reported.

Swainson's Thrush – 3 at Kentucky Lake WMA, *Calloway*, 30 August (AnL) were the first reported. 1 in *Madison* 19 October (RBa, RFs) was the last reported.

Hermit Thrush – 1 in *Franklin* 1 October (JSo) was the first to be reported.

Wood Thrush – 1 at Harrods Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 14 October (wr. WnA) was the last to be reported.

Cedar Waxwing – Peak number of migrants appeared to occur during November; 146 at Schochoh, *Logan*, 26 November (ST) represented the highest count reported for the season.

American Pipit – 2 in Schochoh, *Logan*, 28 September (ST) were the first reported.

Purple Finch – There were only 9 reported locations of fall migrants but some likely misidentified.

Pine Siskin – Very few were reported as fall migrants; one at Schochoh, *Logan*, 7 September (ph. ST) was exceptionally early; a total of 8 reports occurred during late October and early November.



Veery – Logan Co.
6 September 2019, Danny Head

Lapland Longspur – 5 reports all documented. 30 at Kentucky Bend Rd., *Fulton*, 16 November (AsH) were the first reported. Other reports were: 1 in Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 15 November (JBa); 15 in *Fulton* 20 November (MM, CBz, BPB); 1 at Waste-Path/Clean Earth Facility, *Marshall*, 21 November (wr. MM, BPB); 1 on Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 27 November (LyB).

Bachman's Sparrow – 2 were reported at the Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, breeding area 19 August (DMs).

American Tree Sparrow – 1 at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 2 November (RC) was the first reported.

Vesper Sparrow – 1 at Rose Hill, *Oldham*, 10 October (RAF) was the first reported. One lingered to 27 November at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson* (ph. BPB).

Lark Sparrow – There were two reports: 2 at Horse Pond Slough, *Henderson*, 18 August (ph. BPB) and a tardy individual s. of Ragland, w. *McCracken* 10 November (wr. SRc).

Savannah Sparrow – Up to 125 along Midway Church Road, Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 20 November (BPB, MM, CBz) was the largest number reported.

Grasshopper Sparrow – 2 at Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*, 3 November (ph. MiC, BBC, mo.) were the latest to be reported and relatively tardy.



Grasshopper Sparrow – Fayette Co.
3 November 2019, Teresa Noel

LeConte's Sparrow – One to 3 were reported only in the Lower Hickman Bottoms from 4 November (RbS, mo., ph. BPB).

Nelson's Sparrow – There were two reports: one at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 7 October (ph. BPB, mo.) and 1 along Midway Church Road, Lower Hickman Bottoms, 4 November (FBi, RbS, VcS).

Fox Sparrow – 1 in *Boone* 19 October (StC) was the first reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow – One at the Lexington Cemetery 28 November (DSv, ph. LsC) was tardy; the last bird reported.

White-throated Sparrow – 2 at Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 27 September (JB, PB) and one at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 28 September (DSv, LsC) were the earliest to be reported.



White-crowned Sparrow – Logan Co.
5 October 2019, Steve Tyson

White-crowned Sparrow – 1 in Schochoh, *Logan*, 5 October (ph. ST) was the first reported.

Dark-eyed Junco – an “Oregon” Junco (presumably the same bird that wintered at the same location since 2015-2016) was first observed at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 21 October (MY, BY).

Yellow-breasted Chat – One at LBL, *Trigg*, 12 October (wr. WHS) was particularly tardy.

Bobolink – One in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 November (ph. RbS, VcS, FBi) was the latest to be reported.

Western Meadowlark – 3 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 20 November (ph. BPB, MM, CBz) were the only ones reported.

Orchard Oriole – 1 in *Hardin*, 2 September (SnC) was the last reported.

Baltimore Oriole – 1 at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 17 November (ph. TrN) was very late.

Rusty Blackbird – 1 at LaRue Co Sportsman's Club, *Larue*, 19 October (wr. RMd) was the first reported.

Brewer's Blackbird – There were three reports: one in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 20 November (ph. BPB, MM, CBz); 5 at the WastePath / Clean Earth Facility, *Marshall*, 21 November (wr. BPB, MM); and 2 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 30 November (ph. ShA, JoH).

Ovenbird – 1 in *Lee* 19 October (wr. KID AdD) was the last reported.

Worm-eating Warbler – 1 at Berea College Forest, *Madison*, 28 September (CKAS, mo.) was the last reported.

Louisiana Waterthrush – 1 at Spa Lake, *Logan*, 17 August (ph. RcS) was the last reported.

Northern Waterthrush – 1 at Kentucky Lake WMA, *Calloway*, 28 August (AnL) was the first reported. 1 at Sauerheber WMA, *Henderson*, 10 October (ph. CC) was the last to be reported.

Golden-winged Warbler – 1 at Pine Mountain SRP, *Bell*, 4 September (SaK) was the first to be reported. Individuals at Kentucky Lake WMA, *Calloway* (ph. AnL), Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall* (ph. TaS) and Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson* (BPB) on the 29 September were the last to be reported.

Blue-winged Warbler – 28 of September was the last reported day with single individuals in multiple sites: Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson* (BPB); at Berea College Forest, *Madison* (CKAS, mo.); at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson* (BBC, mo.); Boxend, *Madison*, (RBa, RFs).

Black-and-white Warbler – 1 at Mammoth Cave NP, *Edmonson*, 18 October (JoD) was the last reported.

Prothonotary Warbler – 1 at Harrods Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 20 September (WnA) was the last reported.

Swainson's Warbler – 1 on Old Fidelity Rd. Loop DBNF, *McCreary*, 27 September (wr. RD) was the only report.

Tennessee Warbler – 1 in *Pulaski*, 28 August (RD) was the first reported. 1 at Mahr Park Arboretum, *Hopkins*, 30 October (DoS) was the last reported.

Orange-crowned Warbler – 1 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon* (TG) and 1 at Sauerheber WMA, *Union* (KM) both on 17 September were the first reported. 1 at Sauerheber WMA, *Henderson* (wr. JM) and 1 on Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson* (wr. JSd), both on 17 November were the last to be reported.

Nashville Warbler – 2 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 5 September (BPB) were the first reported. 2 at Rose Hill, *Oldham*, 25 October (RAF) were the last reported.

Mourning Warbler – 8 reports. 3 on Upchurch Cemetery Rd., *Wayne*, 26 August (wr. LyB) were the first reported. 1 at Virginia Miles Nature Center, *Daviess*, 9 October (wr. RD) was the last reported.



Mourning Warbler – Kenton Co.
28 August 2019, William Littleford

Kentucky Warbler – 1 at Red River Gorge, *Powell*, 30 September (wr. JSo) was the last to be reported.

Common Yellowthroat – 1 at Stoner Creek Trail, *Bourbon*, 23 November (ph. TrN) was the last to be reported. The second to last report was of 1 at Lawson-Poindexter Rd Farm Pond, *Todd*, 30 October (JoH).

Hooded Warbler – 1 at Flat Rock Ridge Rd. DBNF, *McCreary*, 11 October (RD) was the last to be reported.

American Redstart – 1 off KY 94, *Fulton*, 21 October (wr. DnR) was the last to be reported.

Cape May Warbler – 1 at Kentucky Lake WMA, *Calloway*, 29 August (wr. AnL) was the earliest reported. 1 in *Warren* 28 October (ph. RcS) was the last reported.

Cerulean Warbler – There were 3 reports: 1 in *Pulaski* on 14 August (RD); 1 in *Lincoln* 26 August (JkE); the final report a hatch year bird at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 5 September (wr. BPB).



Black-throated Blue Warbler – Harlan Co.
1 September 2019, Nancy Braun

Northern Parula – 1 in *Fayette* on 17 November (wr. MKE) was the record late report. The second to last report was a month earlier at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 14 October (CBz).

Magnolia Warbler – A record early date for a single bird in Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 9 August (wr. BY). The next record was of 2 in *Mercer* on 23 August (FMi). 1 near Berea Woods, *Madison*, 20 October (JnA) was the last reported.

Bay-breasted Warbler – 2 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 5 September (BPB) was the first reported. 1 at Mahr Park Arboretum.

Hopkins, 30 October (wr. DoS) was the last reported.

Blackburnian Warbler – 1 at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 22 August (SnC) was the first reported. 1 at Barren River Lake SRP, *Barren*, 23 October (wr. LMc) was the last reported.

Yellow Warbler – 1 in *Lincoln* 30 September (JkE) was the last reported.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 24 August (KyB) and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 24 August (CBz, BPB, ph. JmA) were the first reported. 1 at Bowling Green Jr High, *Warren*, 15 October (RcS) was the last reported.

Blackpoll Warbler – 8 reports. 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 5 September (ph. wr. BY) was the first reported. 1 at Nettleroth Bird Sanctuary, *Jefferson*, 9 October (wr. MA) was the last reported.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – 3 at Black Mountain Ridge road, *Harlan*, 1 September (ph. NBr) were the first reported. 1 at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 18 October (wr. HC, ME) was the last reported.

Palm Warbler – 1 at West Sixth Farm, *Franklin*, 7 September (RbC GS) was the first reported. 22 at Spindletop, *Fayette*, 11 October (DL) were the most reported. 5 at Melco, *Jefferson*, 20 October (JW, BBC, mo.) were the last reported.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – 1 at Carr Creek SP, *Knott*, 21 September (DSv, LsC) was the first reported. 80 at Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*, 27 October (BY) was the highest number reported.

Yellow-throated Warbler – 1 at Harrods Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 14 October (wr. WnA) was the last reported.

Prairie Warbler – 1 in *Hopkins* 5 October (wr. BvC) was the last to be reported.

Black-throated Green Warbler – 1 in Mahr Park Arboretum, *Hopkins*, 30 October (ph. DoS) was the last reported.



Yellow Warbler – Jefferson Co.
8 October 2019, Pam Spaulding

Canada Warbler – 1 at E.P. “Tom” Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 10 August (PtP) was the earliest reported. 1 at Logan Hubble Memorial Park, *Lincoln*, 25 September (JkE) was the last reported.

Wilson’s Warbler – 1 at Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 25 August (CB, PB) was the earliest report. 1 at Bowling Green Jr High, *Warren*, 15 October (ph. RcS) was the last reported.

Summer Tanager – 1 in *Casey*, 19 October (AsH) was the last reported.

Scarlet Tanager – 1 in Lewisburg, *Logan*, 22 October (ph. JeF) was the last reported.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – 1 at Mahr Park Arboretum, *Hopkins*, 30 October (wr. DoS) was the last to be reported.

Blue Grosbeak – 2 at Hopkinsville, *Christian*, 15 October (ph. ShA, JoH) were the last reported.

Indigo Bunting – 1 that hung out until the end of the season in *Pulaski* from 15-30 November (ph. RD) was the last reported. 38 at Reelfoot NWR, *Christian*, 14 October (ph. DnR) was the highest number reported.

Dickcissel – 1 at Schochoh Rd, *Logan*, 20 October (ph. ST) was the last reported.



Scarlet Tanager – Logan Co.
22 October 2019, Jeff Finn



Common Merganser – Jackson Co., 8 August 2019, Diana Piep

REFERENCES

eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relJan-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. January 2020.

Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Third Edition. The Kentucky Ornithological Society, 2019

Yandell, B. 2019. 19th Report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. *The Kentucky Warbler*, 95: 112-120

LOCATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (*Italics* indicate a county name)

Camp #9 = Camp #9 Coal Preparation Plant,
Union

Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*

DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest

Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*

Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe
Road, *w. Henderson*

Jacobson Park, Lexington, *Fayette*

KY Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/*
Marshall

KY Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/*
Marshall/Trigg

Lake Number 9, Lower Hickman Bottoms,
Fulton

LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Rec.
Area, *Lyon/Trigg*

Lexington, *Fayette*

Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR,
Fulton

Louisville, *Jefferson*

Lower Hickman Bottoms, *w. Fulton*

Melco = Melco flood retention basin, *s. Jeffer-*
son

Morgan Pond = cluster of transient ponds
including Morgan Pond along KY 117, *s.*
Christian

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

Open Pond, Lower Hickman Bottoms, *w.*
Fulton

Pope Lick Park (formerly Floyds Fork Park),
Jefferson

Sauerheber = Saureheber Unit Sloughs WMA,
Henderson

Spindletop = University of Kentucky
Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*

SNP = State Nature Preserve

SP = State Park

SRP = State Resort Park

WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Wood Stork, Pulaski Co.
7 November 2019
Jamie Baker



KEY TO OBSERVER CODES

AdD – Adam Dugan	JeF – Jeff Finn	RB – Ray Bontrager
AnL – Andrew Lydeard	JeJ – Jessica Jacobs	RBa – Rebecca Bates
AsH – Asher Higgins	JGr – J Graham	RbC – Robert Chadwick
BBC – Beckham Bird Club	JHo – Josh Holland	RbR – Robert Rold
BJk – Bee Jenkins	JkE – Jackie Elmore	RbS – Ruben Stoll
BIF – Blaine Ferrell	JM – John Meredig	RC – Rodney Crice
BNo – Brandon Nooner	JmA – Jim Arnett	RcM – Richard Mayfield
BPB – Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.	JnA – John Abrams	RcS – Rickey Shive
BvC – Beverly Carrico	JnS – Jennifer Snyder	RD – Roseanna Denton
BWu – Brian Wulker	JoD – Joseph Dunn	RFs – Robert Foster
BY – Ben Yandell	JoH – Joseph Hall Jr.	RH – Ron Hirsch
CB – Carol Besse	JP – Josh Powell	RiF – Richard Fleming
CBz – Clay Bliznick	JrS – Jerry Snyder	RLa – Rob Lane
CC – Charlie Crawford	JrT – Jeremy Teague	RMd – Rosemary Meredith
CKAS/ASK – Central Kentucky Audubon Society	JSd – Jake Souder	ROC – Ronan O'Carra
DbC – Debbie Chadwick	JSh – Jeremy Shiflet	RP – Robert Peak
DbH – Debbie Hamilton	JsK – Josh King	RyR – Ray Reeder
DgM – Doug Mitchell	JSo – Jeff Sole	SaK – Sam Krah
DL – David Lang	JW – James A. Wheat	SaN – Sara Nooner
Dld – David Ledford	KID – Kelly Dugan	SaR – Sasha Rohde
DM – Don Martin	KM – Keith Michalski	SaT – Sandy Townsend
DMs – Daniel Moss	KyB – Kyle Bixler	SBt – Scott Barrett
DnR – Daniel Redwine	LBa – Lyle Babberl	ShA – Sharon Arnold
DoS – Donna Stricklin	LCr – Linda Craiger	SnC – Sean Clinning
DPi – Diana Piep	LH – Lana Hays	SnT – Sneha Thirkannad
DR – David Roemer	LHz – Lea Henze	SRc – Scott Record
DSi – Damien Simbeck	LMc – Lindsey McMahon	ST – Steve Tyson
DSv – David Svetich	LNC – Liberty Nature Center	StB – Steve Brown
DvW – David Westneat	LsC – Lisa Combs	StC – Stuart Crane
EH – Eric Hope	LyB – Lyle Bontrager	SuS – Susan Scholze
ELM – Ellen Mollé	MA – Michael Autin	SuT – Sunil Thirkannad
ErN – Eric Nally	MBr – Meg Brown	SyP – Sydney Penner
EtR – Ethan Rising	ME – Melissa Easley	TaS – Tammie Smith
FBi – Flynn Biter	MHz – Marianne Henze	TB – Tom Becker
FL – Frank Lyne	MiC – Michael Callan	TD – Tom Durbin
FMi – Frank Mitchell	MiH – Michelle Hussey	TG – Teresa Graham
GrB – Gary Byerly	MkE – Mark Ernstes	TnB – Tony Brusate
GS – Gary Sprandel	MM – Mark Monroe	TQ – Tommy Quarles
HC – Hap Chambers	MrL – Marjorie Lehman	TrL – Terri Lusk
InT – Indira Thirkannad	MY – Mary Yandell	TrN – Teresa Noel
JB – Jane Bell	NBr – Nancy Braun	TSa – Tim Salzman
JBa – Jamie Baker	PB – Pat Bell	VcS – Victor Stoll
JBy – John Beachy	PeR – Penny Rose	WHS – Winnifred Homer- Smith
JCa – John Callahan	PS – Pam Spaulding	WnA – Win Ahrens
JCo – Jeff Cooper	PtP – Patrice Pittman	
	RAF – Richard A Fisher, Sr.	



KENTUCKY 2019-2020 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

James A. Wheat

Thirty-five Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) were conducted this year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A total of 144 species was recorded, up from last year's 137. There was one additional "spuh" bird – a possible Orchard Oriole in Louisville – that wasn't cooperative enough for a photograph or more than a brief view. Total individuals counted were 261,837, which includes only birds identified to species. Three count circles exceeded 90 species: Louisville (96), Allen County East (94), and Ballard County (91). Five count circles reported between 80 and 89 species, eleven observed between 71 and 79 species, and the remaining 16 counted between 36 and 68 species.

Weather was rather mild in Kentucky, as it was last year. The low temperatures ranged from 19°F to 54°F. The high temperatures ranged from 29°F to 65°F. All-day or most-day cloudy weather predominated the counts (n=22); 23 reported no rain. Of the 12 counts that reported rain, six reported all-day rain; primarily light rain. Light snow was reported on three counts, but for only part of the day. Rivers and creeks were open. Lakes and ponds were open, with four counts reporting some frozen water on smaller ponds. As always, the distribution of count days across the count period was not uniform. With the traditional holidays and related travel falling mid-week this year, counts were distributed across more days: of the 23 days of the count period, 15 were used to run bird counts. The eight weekend days hosted 20 of the 35 CBCs.

Numerous highlights of this CBC season are listed below. Most of these are on eBird checklists, most documented by photographs, and all have considerable identification notes on the rarities: Ross's Goose (10 on 3 counts), Cackling Goose (5 on 2 counts), Surf Scoter (1 at Louisville), American White Pelican (910 on 2 counts), Great Egret (2 on 2 counts), Black-crowned Night-heron (5 at Louisville), Osprey (1 at Louisville), Golden Eagle (4 on 4 counts), Lesser Black-backed Gull (9 on 2 counts), Glaucous Gull (1 at Land Between the Lakes), Forster's Tern (28 on 2 counts), Barn Owl (10 on 4 counts), Short-eared Owl (1 at Lexington), Merlin (11 on 4 counts), Peregrine Falcon (2 on 2 counts), Prairie Falcon (1 at Louisville), White-eyed Vireo (2 on 2 counts), Red-breasted Nuthatch (1 at Bernheim Forest), Brown-headed Nuthatch (2 at London), House Wren (9 on 6 counts), Marsh Wren (1 at Paradise), Gray Catbird (3 on 2 counts), Orange-crowned Warbler (5 on 3 counts), Common Yellowthroat (1 at Paradise), Northern Parula (1 at Louisville), Prairie Warbler (1 at Russell-Adair County), Grasshopper Sparrow (1 at Elkton), LeConte's Sparrow (7 on 2 counts), Clay-colored Sparrow (1 at Ballard County), Dark-eyed Junco "Oregon" form (1 at Otter Creek), Vesper Sparrow (4 on 2 counts), Lincoln's Sparrow (1 at Allen County West), Western Tanager (1 at Louisville), Indigo Bunting (1 at Somerset), Western Meadowlark (1 at Allen County East), and Brewer's Blackbird (18 on 2 counts).

The ten most numerous species were European Starling (59,934); Common Grackle (20,298); Ring-billed Gull (16,704); Snow Goose (12,818); Red-winged Blackbird (12,119); American Robin (11,339); Mallard (9,157); Mourning Dove (8,579); Canada Goose (6,711); and Sandhill Crane (6,038). There were 20 common species that were reported on all 35 counts; 22 species were observed on only one CBC. Two count circles counted over 25,000 birds: Elkton (34,791) and Ballard County (26,826).

The 448 participants, including some multi-CBC people, logged a total of 1,241 party-hours (401.75 on foot; 784.75 by car; 18.5 by bicycle; 3 by golf cart; and 33 by horse and buggy) and 6,626.25 party-miles (308.25 on foot; 6132.75 by car; 68.25 by bicycle; 4 by golf cart; and 113 by horse and buggy). Birders spent 39.5 hours owling while travelling 101.5 miles. Twenty-two feeder watchers logged 44.5 hours observing birds. As always, we are working to increase CBC

participation on some counts, and would welcome more observers, especially in some areas far from population centers.

I offer sincere thanks to the 448 observers who participated in this year's counts. Once again, most of these observations have also been reported in eBird. My special gratitude goes to the 35 hard-working compilers who organized and executed their counts, submitted count results online, and endured my many requests and questions – much delayed this year due to the constraints of the pandemic. To those who completed Rare Bird Reports or otherwise documented the unusual birds, thank you very much.

LOCATION SUMMARIES

The following CBC summaries are grouped by the Kentucky physiographic region in which they are found (see figure 1). They are listed alphabetically within those groups. Appendix 1 provides results for all 35 CBCs, and will accompany the journal whether mailed or emailed.

JACKSON PURCHASE

Ballard County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at jct. KY 358 and Stove Corner Road; 37.12284°, -088.9518°). Habitat as described in 1984. Dec. 17; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Cloudy (a.m.) to partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 33-39°F; wind N 5-18 mph. Water open.

Nine observers in three to five parties. Total party-hours: 26.5 (11.5 on foot, 15.0 by car). Total party-miles: 90 (5 on foot, 85 by car). Hours owling: 1.0. Total species 92; 26,926 individuals.

Observers: Clay Bliznick, Steve Graham, Teresa Graham, Eric Hope, Andrew Lydeard, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Scott Record, Daniel Redwine, and Brian Wulker.

The day was cool, in part because of a chilly north breeze. Temperatures hovered in the 30s all day. Nine participants found 92 species, about average for this count in recent years. The single biggest highlight was a Clay-colored Sparrow found by Clay Bliznick, Andrew Lydeard, and Daniel Redwine in a field full of sparrows on the Ballard WMA. The wet spring/early summer season resulted in many fields having an abnormal amount of weeds and grass in them, accounting for an above-normal number of LeConte's Sparrows, too. Other nice finds included a Barn Owl in a silo, lots of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the bottomland forests on the Ballard WMA, Loggerhead Shrike, American Tree Sparrow, a few Pine Warblers, and a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds. There were quite a few geese and ducks, with a few Ross's Geese found among the few thousands of Greater White-fronteds and Snows. We tallied all of the normal dabbling ducks including nice numbers of Northern Pintail; however as is the norm diving ducks were in low supply. Count week species: None.

Calloway County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Douglas Cemetery; 36.5984°, -088.1958°). Habitat: 20% lake shoreline and streams, 35% open fields, 30% residential, and 15% deciduous and pine woods. Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) to partly clear (p.m.); temp. 29-49°F; wind calm. Water partly frozen.

Nine observers in one to five parties. Total party-hours 41.5 (7.5 on foot, 34.0 by car). Hours owling: 0.5. Total party-miles 139.25 (14 on foot, 125.25 by car). Total species 80; total individuals 4,650.

Observers: Gage Barnes, Clay Bliznick, Hap Chambers (compiler), Kathy Cohen, Jan Gray, Bob Head, Andrew Lydeard, Darrin Samborski, and Aviva Yasgur (compiler).

Highlights include one Vesper Sparrow [ed.]. Count week species: None.

SHAWNEE HILLS

Daviess County South (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Hwy. 142 just s. of Habit, Ky. [jct. KY 762]; 37.69378°, -086.99575°). Habitat: undescribed. Dec. 21; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 31-50°F; wind SW from 0-8 mph. Water open.

Twenty-one observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours 35.75 (4.25 on foot, 31.5 by car). Hours feeder-watching: 4.75. Total party-miles 249.5 (9.5 on foot, 240.0 by car). Total species 54; total individuals 9,750.

Observers: Judy Adams, Patricia Augenstein, Laura Brown, Laverne Bush, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Steve Hahus (co-compiler), Doreen Harney, Mike Henshaw (co-compiler), Sherry Henshaw, Janet Howard, Mary Kissel, Celeste Lawson, Merry Miller, Edna Murphey, Jeff Murphey, Roseann Radolovich, Robert Rold, Sophia Rold, Marilee Thompson, and Wendell Thompson.

Highlights included 125 Rusty Blackbirds [ed.]. Count week species: None.

Mammoth Cave National Park (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Park Headquarters; 37.18644°, -086.1101°). Habitat as described in 1980. Dec. 19; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 21-41°F; wind calm. Water partly frozen.

Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 8 (4.5 on foot, 3.5 by car). Total party-miles 83 (7 on foot, 76 by car). Total species 36; total individuals 429.

Observers: Blaine Ferrell (compiler) and Albert Meier.

Many areas were flooded due to heavy rains two days prior to the count and Sloan's pond had a thin layer of ice. The cedar trees did not have berries and dogwoods had already been stripped of their berries. It should be noted that all species counted were within Mammoth Cave National Park and those observed outside park boundaries have not been counted for over 30 years. Count week species: None.

Nolin River (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center 0.5 miles south of Hilltop, eastern Grayson County; 37.38964°, -086.1137°). Habitat: woodland, farmland, river and Nolin Reservoir. Jan. 5; 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy (a.m.) to clear (p.m.); temp. 37-52°F; wind SW, 0.25 mph. Water open.

Seven observers in one to two parties. Total party-hours 17 (4 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 151 (1 on foot, 150 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 1,925.

Observers: Bonnie Avery, John Brittain, Tom Durbin, Carol Friedman, Carol Huber, Janet Kistler, and Steve Kistler (compiler).

A low species count, with relatively few individuals. Canada Geese were the only waterfowl. Highlights included good numbers of American Kestrels and Eastern Bluebirds. Count week species: Sandhill Crane.

Paradise (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Hopewell Cemetery in southern Ohio County; 37.27755°, -086.95868°). Habitat as described in 1993. Dec. 30; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy; temp. 38-41°F; wind W 5-30 mph. Water open.

Nine observers in four parties. Total party-hours: 35 (15 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles: 147 (6 on foot, 141 by car). Hours feeder-watching: 2.0. Hours owling: 1.5. Total species 76; 10,478 individuals.

Observers: Beverly Carrico, Preston Forsythe, Shari Forsythe, Steve Graham, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Matt Stickel, Barbara Woerner, Ben Yandell, and Mary Yandell.

Seven people participated in the Paradise CBC on Monday (12/30). After the pleasant weather of Christmas week, the cloudy skies and cold, gusty breeze made for pretty uncomfortable birding. The breeze also made finding some songbirds difficult. Our species total is 76, which may be the lowest ever for the count. The low tally is mostly the result of hardly any waterfowl (only nine species). Highlights included a couple of small flocks of Sandhill Cranes, two Merlins, a Marsh Wren (heard only), a Common Yellowthroat (heard only), three Purple Finches, and three Pine Warblers. Besides several species of waterfowl, bad misses for this count included Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl (count week), Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Hawk trends on the count continue to be of interest. Merlin, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Bald Eagle on the increase, but Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Rough-legged Hawk on the decline. This largely has to do with habitat changes, with less and less open grassland present. Count week species: Short-eared Owl.

Sorgho (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Hwy. 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection; 37.76297°, -087.23086°). Habitat farmland, river, creeks, river bottoms, urban parks and county parks. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. CST. Sky clear; temp. 33-52°F; wind SW 10-15 mph. Water open.

Thirteen observers in three to seven parties. Total party-hours 41 (7 on foot, 34 by car). Total party-miles 276.5 (6.5 on foot, 270.0 by car). Total species 49; total individuals 12,712.

Observers: Judy Adams, Pat Augenstein, Laverne Bush, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Steve Hahus, Janet Howard (compiler), Mary Kissel, Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson, Frances Tichenor, Lynn Tichenor, and Carolyn Williams.

January 1 was a beautiful, sunny day. Three Red-tailed Hawks were observed hunting over a flock of 5,000 mostly European Starlings, while we did not see them catching their lunch, they sure had them swooping around. A total of five Bald Eagles were spotted by different parties on this count which is the highest number that I found by looking over about 11 years records. This count has been held by KOS members for well over 50 years. In the early years I checked there were none, then the numbers vary from 0, 1, 2, or 3 birds, from 2011 through 2018. Count week species: None.

HIGHLAND RIM

Allen County East (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center along Rhoden Creek, 3.0 miles n. of Holland, Ky., Post Office; 36.7426°, -086.06855°). Habitat as described in 2014. Dec. 28; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) to partly cloudy (p.m.) with some light rain; temp. 41-56°F; wind S 0-10 mph. Water open.

Twenty observers in seven to nine parties. Total party-hours 69.5 (10.0 on foot, 30.0 by car, 13.5 by bicycle, and 16.0 by horse and buggy). Hours owling: 1.5. Total party-miles 319.0 (7.5 on foot, 205.5 by car, 49.0 by bicycle, and 57.0 by horse and buggy). Total species 94; total individuals 5,398.

Observers: Frieda Beachy, Jamin Beachy (co-compiler), Kenneth Beachy, Nathan Beachy, Victor Beachy, Ray Bontrager, Barbara Brand, Daniel Brubaker, Jennifer Brubaker, John David Brubaker, Stephen Brubaker, Noah Glick, Asher Higgins, John Higgins, Paul Mullet, Joshua Stoll, Ruben Stoll (co-compiler), Victor Stoll, Jeremiah Troyer, and Judith Troyer.

This year's CBC will be remembered as the one without waterfowl and finches. Numbers were noticeably low but with diligent efforts we managed to find a scattered few. Misses were: several waterfowl species we had been depending on, Purple Finch, Red-breasted nuthatch, Short-eared Owl, DC Cormorant, Common Loon, and Rusty Blackbird. High water levels, so no mud flats.

Highlights were Gray Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler (again!), LeConte's Sparrow, and a Western Meadowlark. The three Pine Siskins were the only ones reported on a CBC in KY during the season [ed.]. Though we found a bit fewer species than our record-breaker 2018 CBC, we still had tons of fun! Thumbs up to the team! See you in 2020! Count week species: None.

Allen County West (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center one-half mile west of jct. KY 2136 (Towe Road) and Shores Road; 36.71278°, -086.3469°). Habitat as described in 2012. Jan. 4; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy; temp. 38-40°F; wind N 0-25 mph. Water open.

Twenty-one observers in one to eleven parties. Total party-hours 31 (14 on foot, 17 by horse and buggy). Hours owling: 0.5. Hours feeder-watching: 0.25. Total party-miles 65.5 (9.5 on foot, 56 by car). Total species 79, total individuals 5,398.

Observers: Jamin Beachy, Abraham Brubaker, Amanda Brubaker, Floyd Brubaker, Jennifer Brubaker, John David Brubaker (compiler), Matthan Brubaker, Ethan Hoover, Jamin Hoover, Joanna Hoover, Joseph Hoover, Maggie Hoover, Matthew Hoover, Philemon Hoover, Rosalyn Hoover, Sharon Hoover, Jaden Tupper, Jared Tupper, Ida Weaver, Karl Weaver, and Katie Weaver.

The highlights for our count were a Merlin found at 3399 West Old State Road, Allen County; a Lincoln's Sparrow found along Claudis Harris Road, Allen County; and a Great Egret at a large pond along Road #622 in the Hyner Road vicinity, Simpson County. These were also count firsts. Other good finds were Bonaparte's Gull, Greater White-Fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bobwhite, Pied-billed Grebe, and Gadwall. A record high 79 species were found, even though individual numbers were down. Overall it was a fairly good count. Thanks to all who helped. Count week species: None.

Barren River Lake (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center 2.3 mi. ESE jct. KY 1402 and KY 101, Barren County; 36.9330°, -086.170535°). Habitat: 50% agricultural, 20% woodlands, 20% urban/suburban, 10% open water. Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky clear; temp. 19-41°F; wind calm. Water open.

Six observers in one to four parties. Total party-hours: 28.75 (9.00 on foot, 19.75 by car). Total party-miles 179.25 (5.5 on foot, 173.75 by car). Total species 86; total individuals 14,736.

Observers: Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Roseanna Denton, Aaron Hulsey, David Roemer, and Stephen Stedman (compiler).

Highlights included two Common Mergansers, a Great Egret, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and a House Wren [ed.] Count week species: Ross's Goose, Common Loon, American Woodcock, Common Grackle.

Bowling Green (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Basil Griffin Park, six miles south of Bowling Green; 36.9159°, -086.4359°). Habitat: deciduous woods 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 18; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy; temp. 28-29°F; wind NW 6-10 mph. Water open.

Six observers in two parties. Total party-hours 18.5 (3.0 on foot, 15.5 by car). Total party-miles 162 (6.5 on foot, 155.5 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 3,294.

Observers: Sarah Bell, Valerie Brown, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Miliska Knauft, David Roemer, and Joanie Roemer.

Thanks to all participants for putting up with a raw day of weather. It had rained heavily two days prior to the count and all creeks were out of their banks and many areas of food had been covered

in debris. A plus was that the temporary lakes south of town had formed and waterfowl took advantage of these. Count week species: Wild Turkey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl.

Elkton (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center just north of jct. Ky 102 (Allensville Road) and Gardner Road; 36.7605°, -087.10106°). Habitat: 73% agricultural fields, woodland 15%, brushy fencerows 8%, rural areas 2%, small ponds and streams 2%. Dec. 26; 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) with light rain to partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 52-64°F; wind calm. Water open.

Nine observers in two to four parties. Total party-hours 35.5 (14.5 on foot, 21.0 by car). Total party-miles 241 (15 on foot, 226 by car). Total species 85; 34,791 individuals.

Observers: Sharon Arnold, Marvin Beachy, Joe Hall, Deborah Hamilton, Steve Hamilton, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll, and Alan Troyer (compiler).

Very warm temperatures on the count this year with a high of 64 degrees Fahrenheit! This contributed to low bird activity throughout the day and the mostly cloudy sky cover kept the raptors down, only one Turkey Vulture was found on count day! Nevertheless, several notable species were found including Least Sandpiper, Peregrine Falcon, Palm Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and two species new for the count, a photographed White-eyed Vireo and a well-described Grasshopper Sparrow. Thank you to all the participants this year, hope to see y'all again next year! Count week species: None.

Glasgow (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Barren County courthouse; 36.9956°, -085.9127°). Habitat: deciduous woods 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 17; 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy with light rain and light snow during the morning; partly clear during the afternoon; temp. 32-38°F; wind NW 10-20 mph. Water open.

Eight observers in two parties. Total party-hours: 7.75 (0.5 on foot, 7.25 by car). Total party-miles 173.5 (0.5 on foot, 173.0 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 9,647.

Observers: Tom Durbin (compiler), Carol Friedman, Janet Kistler, Steve Kistler, Sandra Moss, David Roemer, Stephen Stedman, and Neil Troyer.

A fairly heavy snow started falling when the count started then tapered off. Heavy northwest winds kept most of the hawks grounded. No accipiters seen on this count. The winds did contribute to a heavy migration of Sandhill Cranes during the entire day. Notable misses included no owls, Purple Finches or Common Grackles. Count week species: None.

Green River Lake (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor Co.; 37.17541°, -085.22041°). Habitat: old fields, agricultural fields and borders, second growth forest, Green River riparian areas, open water, including Green River Lake and Campbellsville City Lake. Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 54-61°F; wind S 0-10 mph. Water open.

Thirteen observers in four parties. Total party-hours 26.0 (16.5 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party-miles 109.0 (8.5 on foot, 100.5 by car). Total species 75 total individuals 3,617.

Observers: Lloyd Curry, Steve Dalton, Eric Hope, Richie Kessler, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Jeff Sole, Aaron Yoder, Amos Yoder, Elmer Yoder, Katie Yoder, Lois Yoder, Melinda Yoder, and Vernon Yoder.

The day was cloudy and relatively warm. The most abnormal aspect of the count was the level of the lake; on count day Green River Lake was nearly *23 feet above summer pool*! All of our normal vantage points were under water, so we had to stretch and improvise to even see much of the water. As a result, our water bird count is much reduced from typical years, resulting in a

lower species total (75). Highlights included a few Common Loons and Horned Grebes, five Common Mergansers, a few Bald Eagles, a lot of Killdeer in open agricultural fields, two Barred Owls, good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers in woodlots south of the lake, a Brown Thrasher, a few Fox Sparrows, and a Pine Warbler. Count week species: None.

Hart County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center near the end of Obanion Road; 37.28352°, -085.83795°). Habitat: 73% agricultural fields, woodland 15%, brushy fencerows 8%, rural areas 2%, small ponds and streams 2%. Dec. 14; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 38-46°F; wind variable 0-5 mph. Water open.

Twelve observers in one to three parties. Total party-hours 27 (3 on foot, 24 by car). Total party-miles 132.5 (2.5 on foot, 130 by car). Hours owling: 1.0. Total species 71; 3,092 individuals.

Observers: John Brittain, Tom Durbin, Carol Friedman, Dan Givens, Carol Huber, Janet Kistler, Steve Kistler (compiler), Kathy Nichols, Rickey Shive, Mitch Sturgeon, Naomi Troyer, and Neil Troyer.

Pleasant December weather helped our cause as 12 birders turned up 71 species, which is the second best in our 33-year count history. The only big misses were Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Brown Thrasher. Highlights included four Cackling Geese (new for this count and new for the county), *seven* Loggerhead Shrikes, an American Pipit, and a few waterfowl in our landlocked county. Count week species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher.

Hopkinsville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at jct. US 68 and Pennyriple Parkway; 36.861547°, -87.472963°). Habitat is mainly urban with outlying areas farmland. The north part of the circle is much more wooded. There has been substantial loss of habitat over the years due to urban development. Jan. 4; 6:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky partly cloudy with light rain in the morning; temp. 38-40°F; wind NW from 5-15 mph. Water open.

Nine observers in three to four parties, plus two feeder watchers. Total party-hours 25 (9 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 191.5 (7.5 on foot and 184 by car). Total species 63; individuals 2,402.

Observers: James David Chiles (compiler), David Fletcher, Irene Grace, Jeff Grace, Julius Grace, Sandra Price, Tom Price, Maggie Selvidge, and Ken Utting.

The day was cold and windy. The highlight of the day was the sighting of eight Bald Eagles, four mature and four immature birds. One of our better counts in recent years with both number of species and counters in the field. Count week species: None.

Land Between the Lakes (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center northern edge of mouth to Pisgah Bay, south of Pisgah Point boat ramp and near the end of Forest Service Road 1111-A; 36.936736°, -88.168328°). Habitat as described in 1984 in *American Birds*. Dec. 14; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy with intermittent light showers; temp. 39-44°F; wind, variable 0-12 mph. Water open.

Twenty-five observers in one to ten parties. Total party-hours 42.25 (15.5 on foot, 26.75 by car). Hours feeder watching: 0.5. Total party-miles 281.75 (11 on foot, 270.75 by car). Total species 84; total individuals 11,594.

Observers: Michael Autin, Gage Barnes, Joseph Bassi, Shannon Brockway, Arrianne Byrum (compiler), Hap Chambers, David Chiles, Cameron Cooper, Kim Cooper, Melodie Cunningham, Melissa Easley, Ron Golden, Jan Gray, Aunji Jackson, Tim Johnson, Chris Kelly, Kevin Mardell,

John Pollpeter, Andy Radomski, Darrin Samborski, Gregory Waldrop, Nancy Waldrop, Monica West, Nickolaus Willis, and Aviva Yasgur.

This year, we had fairly mild weather leading up to the count day and temperatures dropping after the count day, with the count day itself starting around 35°F and maxing around 44°F. mid-day. Skies were mostly overcast with some occasional sprinkles of rain. This made for a pleasant day all in all! However, due to the weather, migratory patterns, and changes to the circle, we did record an uncharacteristically low number of waterfowl and other species for the area. We tallied 86 species for the day, which is relatively low for our average count. Unusual for this year, we saw low numbers of many waterfowl species and some songbirds, as well as record lows for Rock Pigeons, Mourning Doves, and Dark-eyed Juncos. We saw high counts for Wild Turkey (63), Common Loon (51), Red-shouldered Hawk (15), and House Finch, with record highs for Snow Goose (800), Common Goldeneye (1294), Double-crested Cormorant (1116), and American White Pelican (896). Unique species included a Golden Eagle and a Glaucous Gull, as well as a House Wren. After two years of breaking the high count for Bald Eagle, the species was back to a more "normal" total of 49 this year. We believe the lower numbers can be attributed not only to the weather and migratory patterns, but also to our efforts to standardize the count circle. New mapping software resulted in a correction of the perimeter of the circle. As we have relied on original drawn maps in the past, which inadvertently indicated a circle that was too large (the LBL circle has been in existence for nearly 70 years), a correction of the boundary has taken place and we are moving towards being true to the circle as it is illustrated by the GIS software. A big thank you to all who helped us this year. We look forward to 2020! Count week species: Sandhill Crane.

Lincoln's Birthplace (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at courthouse square in downtown Hodgenville; 37.57375°, -085.74038). Habitat as described in 2011. Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 54-60°F; wind SW 0-10 mph. Water open.

Eleven observers in seven to eight parties. Total party-hours 38 (7 on foot, 31 by car). Hours owling: 0.25. Total party-miles 231 (6 on foot, 225 by car). Total species 72; total individuals 4,613.

Observers: Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Sean Clinning, Bill Friel, Terri Friel, Brenda Gaddie, Rosemary Meredith, Ross Parker, Jennifer Snyder, Steve Stedman, and Barbara Woerner (compiler).

Our species total is a lot lower than the previous few years but isn't too bad given the scarcity of waterfowl in the area this year and it's not a year for irruptive species like winter finches. Highlights of the day included four species of warblers (Yellow-rumped, Palm, Pine and a count-first Orange-crowned Warbler), 17 Greater White-fronted Geese, a Loggerhead Shrike, four Bald Eagles and record high numbers of Eastern Phoebe (8), Eastern Bluebirds (86), Rusty Blackbirds (60), and Eastern Meadowlarks (90). It was a real treat to be serenaded by meadowlarks all day. Thank you to all who helped with this CBC. Count week species: Snow Goose, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture.

Otter Creek Park (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center just west of the jct. of KY 1238 and Pack Lane, about two miles southwest of the Park entrance; 37.91409°, -086.069836°). Habitat as described in 2001. Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) to partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 54-64°F; wind S 5-20 mph. Water open.

Thirteen observers in four to five parties. Total party-hours: 36.5 (18.0 on foot, 18.5 by car). Hours owling: 0.5. Total party-miles: 204 (10 on foot, 194 by car). Total species 68; 4,834 individuals.

Observers: Michael Autin, Tom Becker, Sean Clinning, Colleen Craven-Becker, Aleesa Drennan, Greg Drennan, Christy Laudig, Jack Laudig, Richard Mayfield, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Lee Payne, Jennifer Snyder, and Barbara Woerner.

It was a gorgeous day for a count with partly to mostly cloudy skies and warm temps! Thirteen participants found 68 species (about average for this count in recent years). A recurring theme on CBCs this year was the general lack of waterfowl. This count typically relies on cold weather to put some birds on the Ohio River and Doe Valley Lake, but the warm temps resulted in nothing being found on those water bodies. Highlights of the count included 3 Bald Eagles, a "flock" of three Eastern Screech-Owls, two House Wrens on the west side of Ft. Knox, a Brewer's Blackbird at the Fackler Farm (third year in a row for the species there), and single Palm and Pine Warblers. Also on Ft. Knox was a bright rufous-sided junco that has been identified as a member of the western "Oregon" group (photos on eBird list from Meade County for December 28th). Also of interest was a parade of Sandhill Crane flocks migrating *north* during the entire afternoon. As expected, no winter finches were found, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were absent. Count week species: None.

Russell-Adair County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center intersection of Owensby Road and Hwy. 3281; 36.96583°, -085.12167°). Habitat: mixed and deciduous woodland, pasture fields, streams and lake, mostly rural with a small percentage of urban. Dec. 21; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy; temp. 34-54°F; wind variable, 0-3 mph. Water open.

Eight observers in five parties. Total party-hours 46 (12 on foot, 34 by car). Hours owling: 5.5. Total party-miles 364.5 (6.5 on foot, 358.0 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 6,511.

Observers: Ray Bontrager, Derek Coomer, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Gay Hodges, Bret Kuss, Arlene Morton, and Rickey Shive.

We had a couple of firsts for this count: Gray Catbird (2) and Prairie Warbler (1). Other highlights included Barn Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, House Wren (becoming expected), and Palm Warbler. Three parties had Chipping Sparrows this year. Blackbirds are usually hard to come up with on this count, but this year small numbers of all 3 common species were found plus 1 Rusty Blackbird. Pretty much as expected Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin weren't found. Our biggest miss was Bald Eagle; it's only been missed once before that was in 2015. Seventeen Red-headed Woodpeckers was a good number for this count. Count week species: None.

Somerset (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center junction of Bypass Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 39; 37.10245°, -084.60376°). Habitat as described in 2000. Jan. 1; 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky clear temp. 36-49°F; wind SW, 0-15 mph. Water open.

Nine observers in three to four parties (plus five feeder watchers). Total party-hours 31.5 (7.0 by foot, 24.5 by car). Hours owling: 1.5. Hours feeder-watching: 14. Total party-miles 248.75 (2.75 on foot, 246 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 3,852.

Observers: Rhonda Bryant, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Gay Hodges, James Kiser, Scott Marsh, Lynda Mills, Tom Mills, and Arlene Morton.

Highlights of the count were Northern Bobwhite (not recorded since 2015) and an Indigo Bunting coming to a feeder. Our biggest miss was probably White-crowned Sparrow, which we've never missed before. We also missed Red-winged Blackbird, which we missed for the first time in 2016, then again in 2018. We only recorded a single Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird. We ended up with a total of 75 species, which is a little below average our average of 79 species. Count week species: None.

Wayne County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center jct. Hwy. 1275 and Hwy. 3106; 36.8972°, -084.8215°). Habitat as described in 2002. Jan. 4; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy with some light rain (a.m.) and some heavy rain (p.m.); temp. 39-45°F; wind W, 5-30 mph. Water open.

Nine observers in five parties. Total party-hours 35.5 (12.0 on foot, 23.5 by car). Total party-miles 169.5 (6.5 on foot, 163.0 by car). Total species 79; total individuals 11,736.

Observers: Caleb Albrecht, Kevan Albrecht, Thomas Albrecht, Lyle Bontrager, Ray Bontrager, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Gay Hodges, Bret Kuss, and Arlene Morton.

Highlights included four Barn Owls, three House Wrens, and five Purple Finches [ed.]. Count week species: None.

BLUEGRASS

Bernheim Forest (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Forest lookout tower, 2.75 mi. SE of Forest entrance; 37.902405°, -085.62752°). Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. Sky clear; temp. 45-55° F; wind S 0-10 mph. Water open.

Fifteen observers in one to eight parties. Total party-hours: 46.25 (23.50 on foot, 22.75 by car). Hours feeder-watching: 1.0. Total party-miles: 191.5 (15 on foot, 176.5 by car). Total species 72; 5,245 individuals.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Wanda Bilkey, Warren Bilkey, Mike Callan (compiler), Dona Coates, Michael Grentzer, Joanne Luyster, Lindsey McMahon, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr, Jennifer Snyder, Jerry Snyder, Matt Speer, Kelly Vowels, and Barbara Woerner.

Highlights included five Redheads, two Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Golden Eagle, five Bald Eagles, two Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Brown Thrasher, a Palm Warbler, three Pine Warblers, two American Tree Sparrows, and two Savannah Sparrows. Count week species: None.

Burlington (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center near Camp Michaels; 38.94932°, -084.74625°). Habitat as described in 1992. Jan. 5; 5:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) to clear (p.m.); temp. 31-46°F; wind NE 7-15 mph. Water open.

Twelve observers in one to seven parties. Total party-hours 34.25 (12.50 on foot, 21.75 by car). Hours owling: 1.5. Hours feeder-watching: 4.5. Total party-miles 182.5 (13.5 on foot, 169 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 3,494.

Observers: Linda Altevers, Kevin Black, Martha Boemker, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti (compiler), Elaine Carroll, Pat Carroll, Melissa Desjardin, Ed Groneman, Ellen McPhillips, Gayle Pille, and Tommy Stephens.

Highlights were one Brown Thrasher, one Bald Eagle, and one Cackling Goose with a large flock of Canada Geese on the Ohio River shore at Rabbit Hash. Not found on this year's CBC were gulls, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, and White-crowned Sparrows. Count week species: None.

Danville (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Boyle County Courthouse; 37.64634°, -084.77345°). Habitat: water edge (15%), urban (8%), cultivated (10%), field/ fence row (35%), wooded edge (25%), and feeder (7%). Dec. 14; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy with light rain; temp 38-45°F; wind NW 7-18 mph. Water open.

Twenty-one observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 89.75 (8.75 on foot, 81.00 by car). Total party-miles 491.75 (8.75 on foot, 483 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 6,003.

Observers: Laura Baird, Jim Barnard, Neil Eklund, Virginia Eklund, Amanda Falk, Danielle La Londe, Tom Lamp, Ben Leffew (compiler), Anne Lubbers, Preston Miles, Eric Mount, Rob Pendency, Janet Pierce, Milton Scarborough, Kate Slankard, Jeff Sole, Loren Taylor, Elizabeth Trollinger, Patsi Trollinger, Erica Weil, and Ryan Weil.

According to participants, who are veterans of many bird counts, this was the slowest bird count with regard to bird activity in recent memory. The weather was rainy/windy/cloudy all day and probably the main contributor to low species and individual numbers. Count week species: None.

Falmouth (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center near Caddo, Ky.; 38.74738°, -084.24473°). Habitat: 50% woodland and forest edge, 25% river and lake shoreline, 20% agricultural, and 5% residential. Dec. 22; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) to partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 29-51°F; wind variable, 0-9 mph. Water partly frozen.

Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Hours owling: 1.0. Total party-miles 46.25 (3.5 on foot, 42.75 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 1,654.

Observers: Rodney Crice (compiler) and Kathi Hutton.

Count week species: None.

Frankfort (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center jct. US 127 and KY 1900; 38.22612°, -084.85022°). Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy with some light rain in the morning; temp. 40-45°F; wind variable 5-15 mph. Water open.

Seventeen observers in one to nine parties. Total party-hours 36.25 (27.25 on foot, 9.00 by car). Total party-miles 143 (21 on foot, 122 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 3,845.

Observers: Melanie Arnett, Joyce Bender, Robert Chadwick, Joyce Fry, Peggy Gould (compiler), Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Hannah Helm, Jeri Howell, Jeff Jones, Joel Jones, Tommy Quarles, Geoffrey Roberts, Nour Salam, Edwin Shouse, Mary Shouse, and Gary Sprandel.

The weather for this year's Frankfort count was very good for birding; morning drizzle gave way to clouds, a bit of a breeze, and moderate temperatures. While there were no rare birds on this count, we did come up with a couple of infrequent finds: a Northern Pintail and two Hermit Thrushes (highest number on a Frankfort count). Several other species came close to a count-high total - Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-bellied Woodpecker all missed tying their high number by one! On the other end of the spectrum, we had our lowest number of Dark-eyed Juncos (27) in 51 recorded Frankfort counts. Count week species: None.

Henry County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at end of Fern Castle Lane; 38.40382°, -085.15351°). Habitat: mostly open farmland with most trees along fence lines; a lot of small farm ponds. Jan. 4; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 40-50°F; wind SW 0-10 mph. Water open.

Nine observers in two parties. Total party-hours: 20.5 (1 on foot, 14.5 by car, and 5 by bicycle). Total party-miles: 125.25 (1 on foot, 105 by car, and 19.25 by bicycle). Total species 63; 3,761 individuals.

Observers: Michael Autin, Alvin Lambright, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Adam Raber, Joel Raber, Reuben Raber (compiler), Michael Wagler, Joseph Whetstone, and Harry Yoder.

It was a very enjoyable day with a lot of help. The weather was a little cold and nasty, but we still found our common birds, and also added Hooded Merganser and Golden Eagle to our count. The Golden Eagle was observed flying above the river as both parties had met; 8 people got to see the

bird. It was definitely the highlight of the day. Thank you to all who participated. Count week species: Cackling Goose, Great Horned Owl, Winter Wren, Palm Warbler.

Kleber Wildlife Management Area (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Hensler, Owen Co.; 38.4633°, -084.7769°). Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 19; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 23-37°F; wind W, 0-5 mph. Water partly frozen.

Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10.5 (5.5 on foot, 5 by car). Hours owling: 1.5. Hours feeder-watching: 0.5. Total party-miles 51.25 (3.0 on foot, 48.25 by car). Total species 38; total individuals 968.

Observers: Hannah Helm and Jeff Jones (compiler).

Clear and cold in the AM, but warmed nicely later in the day. At least two of the most productive areas were inaccessible due to high water in the Kentucky River. One area, a four mile stretch along the river where most of our waterfowl, marsh inhabitants, eagles, etc. are usually observed was cut off at both ends of the road and totally unapproachable. Disappointing. The river itself was literally at flood stage. A very average day, otherwise. Count week species: None.

Lexington (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center East Hickman Church on Tates Creek Road; 37.9198°, -084.4693°). Habitat: suburban farms, woodlots, water company reservoirs, Kentucky River cliffs and bottomland. Dec. 14; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy with light rain; temp. 39-42°F; wind NW 10-11 mph. Water open.

Thirty-five observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 55 (18 by foot, 37 by car). Hours owling: 10.0. Total party-miles 230 (12 on foot, 218 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 9,574.

Observers: Kyle Bixler, Gretchen Bolton, Nancy Braun, Tony Brusate, Jan Clark, Kit Clark, Lisa Combs, Matt Ernstes Mark Farman, Jim Hodge, Kevin Hopper, Beverly James, Allen Kingsland, Betsy Lang, David Lang, Judy Lundquist, Betty Maxson, Josie Miller, Teresa Noel, Ronan O'Carra, Sydney Penner, Lily Peppiat, Pep Peppiat, Layton Register, Lou Shain, Nathan Skinner, Dave Svetich, Laurie Thomas, Mark Tower (compiler), Nora Tower, Charles Tremoulet, Barbara Vellios, Chuck Vellios, George Weams, and David Westneat.

This year's weather was essentially the same as the last three years running: overcast and cold with drizzle nearly the whole day. Like the last couple years, this caused a few last-minute cancellations from some of our new/community bird counters. Otherwise our effort was relatively consistent with previous counts. Despite good coverage of the circle with experienced birders, we only managed 75 species, our lowest count of the last five years. Limited highlights included a Short-eared Owl, a Merlin, and a Pine Warbler. Our biggest misses were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, and Fox Sparrow. Otherwise we simply failed to turn up anything unexpected. Other than remarkably low blackbird numbers, the number counts of our other bird species were consistent with previous years. Count week species: None.

Louisville (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle (including a portion of Clark Co., Indiana), center jct. US 42 and KY 22; 38.2813°, -085.6348). Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 15; 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 33-39°F; wind E, 0-15 mph. Water open.

Fifty-two observers in 21 parties. Total party-hours 116.25 (78.5 on foot, 37.75 by car). Hours owling: 1.75. Hours feeder-watching: 2. Total party-miles 369 (64.5 on foot, 304.5 by car). Total species 97; total individuals 15,149.

Observers: Win Ahrens, Ryan Ankeny, Michael Autin, Jamie Baker, Brenda Bauer, Tom Becker, Pat Bedford, Sherm Bedford, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Wanda Bilkey, Warren Bilkey, JoAnn Bochmann, Karen Bonsell, Meg Brown, Steve Brown, John Callahan, Mike Callan, Dona

Coates, Colleen Craven-Becker, Wes Cunningham, Rod Goforth, Charles Hatten, Ron Hirsch, Eric Hope, Bob Johnson, John Krull, Rob Lane, JoAnn Luyster, Richard Mayfield, Lindsey McMahon, Andrew Melnykovich, Eric Nally, Lee Payne, Rachel Pigg, Bill Pike, Patrice Pittman, Christine Ransdell, Eden Ransdell, Samantha Ransdell, Taylor Ransdell, Michael Riggs, Tom Sklodoski, Jake Souder, Pam Spaulding, Dave Stewart, Del Striegel, Nancy Vance, Major Waltman, James A. Wheat (compiler), and Barbara Woerner.

Highlights included a Surf Scoter, an Osprey, seven Merlins, a Prairie Falcon (a county-first), a House Wren, *three* Orange-crowned Warblers, a Northern Parula (photographed; first state winter season record), and a Western Tanager (fourth state record). An oriole reported as Orchard could not be considered confirmed (as differentiated from Scott's Oriole). Count week species: American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Redhead, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Warsaw (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse; 38.78387°, -084.90227°). Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 15; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy (a.m.) to partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 31-37°F; wind variable, 2-5 mph. Water open.

Five observers in one to three parties. Total party-hours 21.75 (5.50 on foot, 16.25 by car). Hours owling: 3.0. Total party-miles 148.0 (4.5 on foot, 143.5 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 1,920.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti (compiler), Ed Groneman, John Neack, and Tommy Stephens.

Cloudy day with the species total (60) being about average for this count. Flock of 33 Sandhill Cranes was a record high for this CBC. Low number of waterfowl species. Big miss for this count was Wild Turkey. Count week species: None.

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINS

Ashland, Boyd County (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle [including limited portions of Lawrence County, Ohio, and Wayne County, West Virginia], center at 3722 Emitt Drive, Ashland, Ky.; 38.4667°, -082.6999°). Habitat: 60% forest, 20% suburban, 15% roadside and brushy edges, 3% open land, and 2% open water and streams. Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 35-65°F; wind SE, 2-6 mph. Water open.

Eight observers in one to five parties. Total party-hours 16.5 (3.5 on foot, 10.0 by car, 3.0 by golf cart). Hours owling: 3.0. Hours feeder-watching: 1.0. Total party-miles 102 (4 on foot, 94 by car, 4 by golf cart). Total species 50; total individuals 1,072.

Observers: Lucas Canterbury, Ronald Canterbury (compiler), Courtney De Jesso, James De Jesso, Lucas De Jesso, Victoria De Jesso, David Russell, and Gayle Russell.

Three species appeared for the first time on this CBC: one each Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock, and Pine Warbler [ed.]. Count week species: None.

Cumberland Falls (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center on upper Bark Camp Creek; 36.8900°, -084.2611°). Habitat: mostly forest (about 70% upland oak and pine, mixed forest, and hemlock forest), about 20% in small rural home lots, small farm holdings, and minimal residential and urban areas, one large reservoir (Laurel River Lake), and about 17 miles of Cumberland River/Lake Cumberland and its riparian forest. Dec. 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST; sky cloudy with light rain; temp. 41-44°F; wind SW, 0-10 mph. Water open.

Eleven observers in two to five parties. Total party-hours 36.5 (7.0 on foot, 29.5 by car). Hours owling: 2.0. Total party-miles 279.0 (2.5 on foot, 276.5 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 2,799.

Observers: Sara Ash, Roseanna Denton, Steve Denton, Julia Dixon, James Kiser, Bret Kuss (compiler), Joah Mills, Lynda Mills, Tom Mills, Rich Prewitt, and Renee Yetter.

Our five teams only tallied 55 species in this our tenth year for the count. Temperatures were in the low 40's and it was overcast with light rain in the morning tapering off early in the afternoon. Water birds were few with only three duck species observed and the 21 Mallard being an all-time low for the count. Gulls and Great Blue Heron were not seen. Other notable misses include Wild Turkey, Eastern Meadowlark and House Finch. Three of our woodpeckers were at a high for the count, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. American Goldfinch and Eastern Bluebird were also at a high. No new or unusual birds were added to the count, but Common Mergansers have been reported from the same location now for three consecutive years and House Wrens have been observed in the count circle. Count week species: Gadwall, Buffle-head, House Finch.

London (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at jct. Rte. 3432 and US 25; 37.13544°, -084.09445°). Habitat as described in 2014. Dec. 18; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 25-34°F; wind NW, 3-15 mph. Water open.

Ten observers in four parties. Total party-hours 38 (2 on foot, 36 by car). Total party-miles 58.0 (0.5 on foot, 57.5 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 4,615.

Observers: Wendi Allen (compiler), Gay Hodges, Beth Howard, Bret Kuss, Charline Marrinan, Barbara McIntosh, Arlene Morton, Marie Oakley, Randy Oakley, and Alianey Robinson.

Highlights included two Brown-headed Nuthatches and two Pine Warblers [ed.]. Count week species: None.

CBC RESULTS

Christmas Bird Count data for 2019-2020 are provided in Appendix 1. This table is arranged in order of Kentucky physiographic regions, from west to east, and organized alphabetically within each region.

Figure 1 below locates the CBCs on a map of Kentucky.

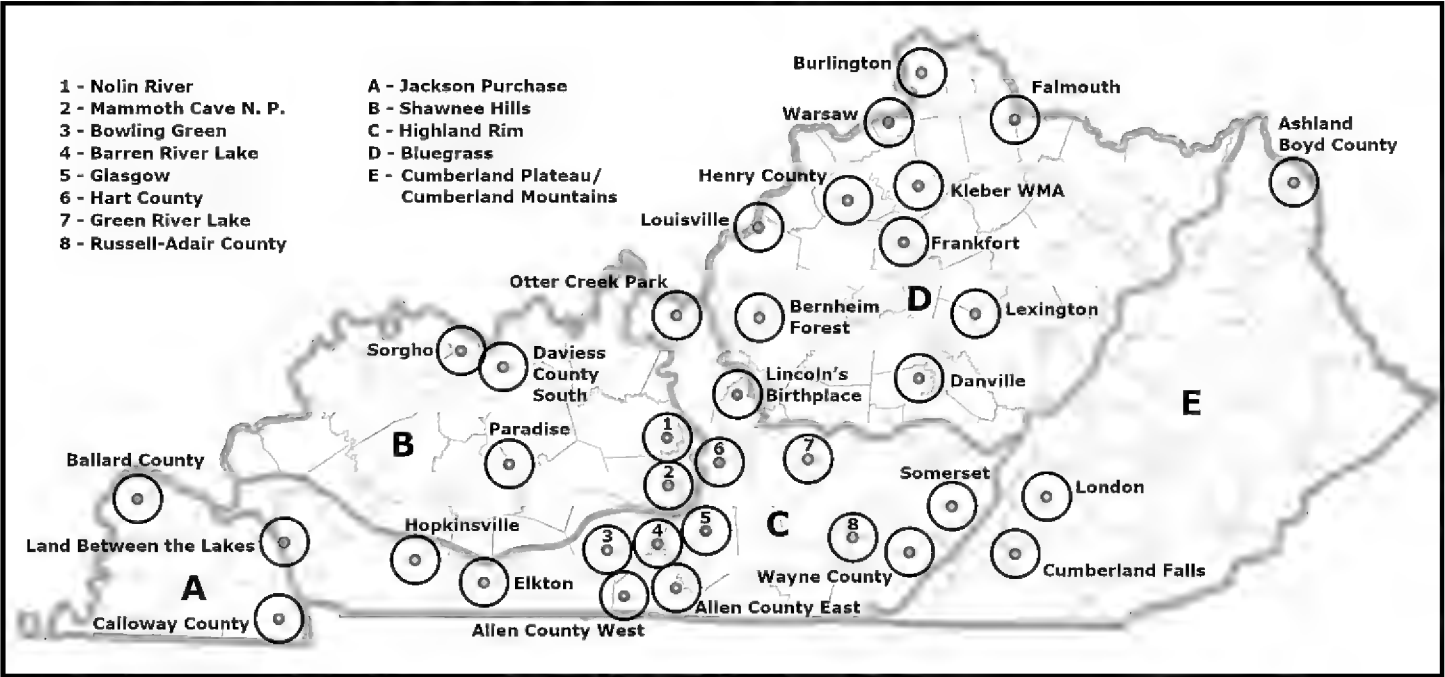


Figure 1. Kentucky CBCs, 2019-2020



NEWS AND VIEWS

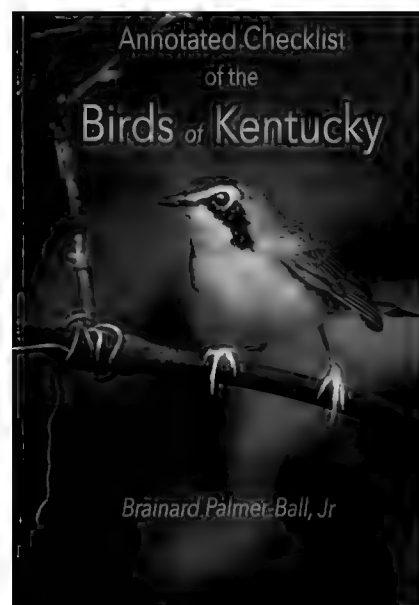
Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (3rd ed.) now available.

By Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(Kentucky Ornithological Society).

Paperback 276 pages. 1 August 2019.

“The 3rd edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* updates the status and abundance of 390 species that have been documented to have occurred in Kentucky. The 3rd edition has been expanded to include more detailed lists of county distribution of many less common species. Included in species descriptions are brief summaries of status, distribution, seasonal occurrence, and abundance.” – Kentucky Ornithological Society website.



This important reference is available at meetings of the society, through Aerio Book Sales (<https://aerbook.com/maker/productcard-4886075-6955.html>) and wherever books are sold.

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia “Ginny” Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to KOS and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to young birders between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition to attend an American Birding Association (ABA) Summer Camp. Details about the ABA camps can be found on the ABA website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the KOS web site (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Applications should be sent to Carol Besse (csbesse@bellsouth.net). Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to KOS at a meeting, or in writing. Scholarship applications are due by May 1 each year, however grants will be subject to ABA camp’s space availability.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, visit the KOS web site (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (SMarsh@Clayingels.com).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS web site (<http://www.birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>) or contact Kate Slankard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (kate.slankard@ky.gov).

The 2019 recipient was Gage Barnes, who was working with Dr. Andrea Darracq at the Department of Biological Sciences, Murray State University. The title of the research was “Assessing the Influence of Telecommunication Towers on Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Nesting Productivity and Behaviors in Western Kentucky.”

Recipients of KOS grants are expected to submit research articles or summary reports, which will be published in future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler*.



Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Franklin Co.
3 November 2019
Robert Chadwick



Savannah Sparrow
Henderson Co.
18 September 2019
Charlie Crawford



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Jefferson Co., 29 September 2019
Steve Brown



Scarlet Tanager
Logan Co., 22 October 2019
Jeff Finn



Least Flycatcher
Jefferson Co., 27 September 2019
James A. Wheat



Bobolink
Fulton Co., 4 November 2019
Victor Stoll



Cape May Warbler
Warren Co., 28 October 2019
Rickey Shive

Appendix 1 - 2019-2020 Kentucky Christmas Bird Count Results - *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 96, No. 1

Kentucky Region	Jackson Purch.		Shawnee Hills					Highland Rim													Bluegrass										CPCM *						
Count Circle Name Species	Ballard County	Calloway County	Daviess County South	Mammoth Cave N.P.	Nolin River	Paradise	Sorgho	Allen County East	Allen County West	Barren River Lake	Bowling Green	Elkton	Glasgow	Green River Lake	Hart County	Hopkinsville	Land Between the lakes	Lincoln's Birthplace	Otter Creek Park	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	Bernheim Forest	Burlington	Danville	Falmouth	Frankfort	Henry County	Kleber WMA	Lexington	Louisville	Warsaw	Ashland, Boyd County	Cumberland Falls	London	Total	
Snow Goose	12K	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	800	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12.8K
Ross's Goose	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	cw	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Greater White-fronted Goose	4K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	26	85	22	-	-	6	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.2K
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Canada Goose	90	182	22	3	30	210	270	160	125	20	122	325	41	10	64	41	200	221	51	120	83	52	351	473	111	168	327	171	4	425	1.8K	61	172	35	167	6.7K	
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Wood Duck	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	3	4	-	5	6	-	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	64	
Northern Shoveler	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	40	2	-	-	-	2	5	-	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	37	-	-	-	-	167	
Gadwall	330	107	-	-	-	203	-	3	1	8	25	45	-	2	2	1	149	1	-	35	54	9	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	41	32	-	-	cw	-	1.1K	
American Wigeon	35	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	cw	-	-	-	-	63	
Mallard	5.7K	61	2	-	-	385	84	16	27	69	104	300	54	216	22	15	111	305	-	48	210	82	51	67	55	15	53	29	-	260	708	23	8	21	56	9.2K	
American Black Duck	4	-	-	-	-	15	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-	4	8	6	-	4	2	26	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	83	
Northern Pintail	155	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	5	-	-	2	-	cw	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	cw	-	-	-	-	181	
Green-winged Teal	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	12	36	90	6	-	-	-	12	12	-	-	-	16	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	219	
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	11	
Ring-necked Duck	37	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	7	-	-	93	6	-	6	54	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	29	1	-	-	1	315	
Greater Scaup	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	19		
Lesser Scaup	-	700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	1.6K	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	26	2.4K	
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
Bufflehead	4	174	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	5	-	-	5	-	2	116	-	1	2	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	9	-	-	cw	2	348	
Common Goldeneye	13	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	-	-	3	-	-	1.3K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	-	-	1.5K	
Hooded Merganser	9	79	-	-	-	1	-	34	1	40	12	-	14	36	2	-	18	15	-	11	14	27	-	-	8	-	-	2	-	327	116	2	3	1	25	797	
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	12		
Red-breasted Merganser	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	16	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	21	
Ruddy Duck	36	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	35	2	-	-	12	-	-	10	cw	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	138	
Northern Bobwhite	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	
Wild Turkey	1	8	-	-	10	16	-	23	50	-	cw	395	29	4	24	88	63	71	7	2	17	3	27	7	71	-	2	2	-	18	18	-	10	-	44	1K	
Pied-billed Grebe	4	7	-	-	-	14	-	4	1	17	5	2	-	12	1	5	29	3	3	10	13	8	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	10	11	1	-	10	8	182	
Horned Grebe	-	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	20	-	-	144	-	-	55	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	293	
Rock Pigeon	4	37	52	-	100	20	98	90	50	38	261	60	-	65	11	173	12	44	36	53	94	149	184	56	90	5	328	17	49	284	623	56	55	13	202	3.4K	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	28	2	2	-	7	52	-	2	4	-	-	7	4	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	
Mourning Dove	22	122	355	-	16	6	52	619	265	133	343	1.1K	281	239	380	173	4	476	265	406	229	495	209	56	596	38	96	280	32	426	331	154	16	85	279	8.6K	
American Coot	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	22	-	-	27	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	118	
Sandhill Crane	-	83	-	60	cw	39	-	397	2	511	5	300	2.5K	-	66	-	cw	100	1.1K	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	860	33	1	-	-	6K	
Killdeer	18	24	116	-	57	-	11	748	37	9	76	1K	57	193	8	3	16	72	30	75	3	118	64	1	1	-	11	13	2	23	15	1	4	28	19	2.9K	
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	

Appendix 1 - 2019-2020 Kentucky Christmas Bird Count Results - *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 96, No. 1

Kentucky Region	Jackson Purch.		Shawnee Hills					Highland Rim													Bluegrass								CPCM *									
Species	Count	Circle Name	Ballard County	Calloway County	Davieess County South	Mammoth Cave N.P.	Nolin River	Paradise	Sorgho	Allen County East	Allen County West	Barren River Lake	Bowling Green	Elkton	Glasgow	Green River Lake	Hart County	Hopkinsville	Land Between the Lakes	Lincoln's Birthplace	Otter Creek Park	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	Bernheim Forest	Burlington	Danville	Falmouth	Frankfort	Henry County	Kleber WMA	Lexington	Louisville	Warsaw	Ashland, Boyd County	Cumberland Falls	London	Total
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Wilson's Snipe	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	3	2	65	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	7	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	110
Bonaparte's Gull	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	251	1	1K	3	-	-	50	-	1	683	-	-	150	2	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3K
Ring-billed Gull	3	220	-	-	-	27	1	786	-	10K	1	-	3K	316	-	62	1.5K	-	-	79	17	108	-	-	-	123	-	-	-	-	-	477	16	-	-	-	16.7K	
Herring Gull	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	5	-	-	-	153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	183		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	9	
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Forster's Tern	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	
Common Loon	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	4	-	-	51	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	63
Double-crested Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1.1K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	-	-	-	-	1.2K	
American White Pelican	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	896	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	910	
Great Blue Heron	3	19	5	-	2	7	3	29	5	9	5	21	6	13	10	7	34	16	4	15	13	6	11	5	14	6	38	5	2	48	41	6	2	-	3	413		
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5		
Black Vulture	8	136	2	1	128	47	-	522	55	85	36	13	35	9	40	55	40	cw	78	140	153	49	66	90	49	80	114	47	195	150	179	76	1	7	4	2.7K		
Turkey Vulture	10	76	17	11	154	36	3	308	100	100	40	1	279	38	235	30	73	cw	26	95	102	258	5	46	32	1	61	38	-	65	55	28	73	31	-	2.4K		
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Northern Harrier	6	-	12	-	-	15	3	6	1	-	2	13	-	-	2	-	-	10	1	7	2	6	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	96		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	5	2	2	-	-	31		
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	4	-	1	2	3	5	4	-	2	3	-	-	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	7	3	6	1	4	6	1	5	17	1	-	2	1	93		
Bald Eagle	31	18	-	-	1	9	5	11	-	3	1	2	3	2	1	8	49	4	3	-	1	2	5	1	2	-	2	10	-	1	8	5	-	2	1	191		
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	20	3	1	7	9	2	18	14	7	cw	10	3	8	5	5	15	6	12	17	13	15	20	1	2	4	2	7	-	5	31	1	4	3	4	285		
Red-tailed Hawk	15	13	41	2	4	17	24	44	15	6	1	38	17	6	16	11	13	21	11	15	15	20	16	23	45	10	17	26	13	42	35	17	2	2	5	618		
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10		
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	1	-	-	4	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	6	1	-	-	2	39		
Great Horned Owl	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	12	2	-	-	4	-	-	2	3	-	2	1	4	2	-	3	1	1	-	-	cw	-	4	2	2	1	-	1	49		
Barred Owl	6	6	-	-	1	1	-	8	1	1	cw	5	-	2	3	2	6	-	-	6	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	1	5	1	-	67		
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Belted Kingfisher	4	6	2	1	2	5	-	14	4	5	1	7	2	7	7	2	9	12	4	11	6	1	9	4	4	4	12	3	5	12	20	2	2	4	6	199		
Red-headed Woodpecker	51	8	1	1	1	8	-	19	8	13	-	14	1	7	cw	1	40	2	8	17	4	5	2	2	2	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	1	12	3	237		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	26	44	8	13	20	22	136	60	50	13	60	15	27	38	16	53	37	41	105	35	60	28	17	43	15	61	45	11	75	134	19	7	44	31	1.4K		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	6	-	3	-	2	-	18	11	10	5	9	1	1	3	3	3	-	5	8	3	5	6	1	3	-	3	3	-	6	8	3	2	5	1	141		
Downy Woodpecker	17	36	20	2	6	23	11	47	31	23	12	53	18	13	22	13	41	23	29	34	30	22	60	23	36	5	32	26	6	57	113	20	6	27	21	958		
Hairy Woodpecker	4	14	11	-	1	5	2	17	8	3	-	5	4	5	3	6	2	8	6	11	3	8	10	10	9	4	3	9	-	9	7	5	-	8	1	201		
Northern Flicker	25	30	19	3	7	34	12	62	31	29	12	57	11	14	9	26	42	18	10	50	20	38	21	10	26	11	10	21	1	47	32	9	5	40	14	806		
Pileated Woodpecker	4	13	1	7	11	6	4	36	17	12	4	8	1	9	5	5	22	7	12	23	10	11	20	10	12	3	7	16	6	19	8	9	3	11	12	364		

Appendix 1 - 2019-2020 Kentucky Christmas Bird Count Results - *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 96, No. 1

Kentucky Region	Jackson Purch.		Shawnee Hills					Highland Rim													Bluegrass								CPCM *								
Species	Count Circle Name	Ballard County	Calloway County	Davieess County South	Mammoth Cave N.P.	Nolin River	Paradise	Sorgho	Allen County East	Allen County West	Barren River Lake	Bowling Green	Elkton	Glasgow	Green River Lake	Hart County	Hopkinsville	Land Between the Lakes	Lincoln's Birthplace	Otter Creek Park	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	Bernheim Forest	Burlington	Danville	Falmouth	Frankfort	Henry County	Kleber WMA	Lexington	Louisville	Warsaw	Ashland, Boyd County	Cumberland Falls	London	Total
American Kestrel		18	6	54	-	23	18	43	84	16	22	21	49	44	27	36	31	7	41	14	58	36	47	13	10	71	4	14	41	1	46	11	32	4	5	44	991
Merlin		-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	11
Peregrine Falcon		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
Prairie Falcon		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
Eastern Phoebe		5	9	1	2	-	1	1	29	5	14	1	10	6	6	3	-	5	8	3	17	8	9	6	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	4	2	-	8	3	170
Loggerhead Shrike		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	7	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	
White-eyed Vireo		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Blue Jay		41	62	162	11	23	194	41	299	180	138	30	100	76	56	80	35	115	87	123	230	87	221	151	70	125	59	91	179	33	132	367	59	20	108	163	3.9K
American Crow		96	275	36	14	288	272	8	356	160	70	340	31	17	72	172	107	138	150	120	194	186	299	131	114	121	79	187	253	207	272	202	137	22	290	496	5.9K
Horned Lark		32	-	62	-	3	-	23	45	160	14	305	525	19	30	4	16	-	50	70	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4K
Carolina Chickadee		78	53	55	9	39	68	22	202	70	56	21	85	30	52	81	37	89	62	147	160	66	126	252	54	102	32	84	49	11	169	236	38	14	90	80	2.8K
Tufted Titmouse		68	85	36	28	17	40	5	176	70	73	16	60	25	52	72	14	104	51	163	150	56	139	183	41	68	13	58	74	16	101	187	35	12	61	44	2.4K
Red-breasted Nuthatch		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
White-breasted Nuthatch		8	34	4	6	17	7	5	90	40	20	3	32	8	21	29	3	50	21	43	39	29	17	69	34	14	10	24	25	12	23	66	14	4	32	16	869
Brown-headed Nuthatch		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	
Brown Creeper		6	2	4	-	1	5	1	5	2	4	1	8	-	5	5	4	1	7	12	9	3	5	12	2	1	1	2	1	2	10	29	2	-	2	1	155
House Wren		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	9
Winter Wren		3	7	-	3	3	1	-	5	2	1	2	6	2	2	2	1	1	-	4	4	1	5	3	-	-	-	1	cw	-	3	7	-	2	2	3	76
Marsh Wren		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Carolina Wren		30	45	34	6	19	29	21	184	75	72	27	105	19	28	38	39	20	70	83	108	63	71	107	40	60	34	89	60	23	108	203	31	14	45	58	2.1K
Golden-crowned Kinglet		26	10	1	14	9	14	2	17	5	11	3	3	4	17	6	4	7	21	42	20	13	20	68	12	3	7	1	15	1	42	19	3	-	26	4	470
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		17	4	2	2	1	14	-	11	4	3	2	4	1	14	3	1	3	5	6	6	5	7	4	-	4	-	1	-	2	-	15	2	-	2	-	145
Eastern Bluebird		99	73	56	4	105	64	26	398	100	91	30	130	104	26	91	114	67	86	126	185	150	149	93	37	49	23	17	42	19	142	66	22	9	122	100	3K
Hermit Thrush		12	9	-	4	3	8	-	11	5	3	9	8	2	2	3	-	16	-	6	7	3	13	6	2	-	2	2	1	4	8	10	-	2	18	4	183
American Robin		18	44	86	108	250	560	500	458	450	52	12	590	135	122	57	173	85	252	185	413	207	325	352	393	366	231	508	454	94	869	2.2K	132	60	592	17	11.3K
Gray Catbird		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Brown Thrasher		14	2	-	-	-	8	-	13	3	-	-	6	1	3	cw	2	3	-	2	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	72
Northern Mockingbird		16	20	51	2	9	14	29	137	40	42	20	72	40	18	24	40	11	34	19	50	44	38	49	11	58	5	30	24	4	43	90	15	7	11	81	1.2K
European Starling		1.5K	170	4.7K	6	194	1.6K	2.5K	4.5K	1.2K	315	724	11.6K	1.8K	911	294	-	162	950	760	1.3K	878	6.8K	1.2K	1.3K	2.8K	362	943	800	37	3.7K	3.4K	486	373	348	1.4K	59.9K
Cedar Waxwing		1	73	6	3	20	-	-	280	180	43	18	4	22	118	25	-	77	27	-	217	31	87	-	10	19	7	34	75	-	32	8	3	-	81	-	1.5K
House Sparrow		12	22	73	-	3	60	71	119	125	73	3	285	50	20	15	78	62	218	28	38	40	20	21	5	27	-	30	142	1	58	80	85	16	3	33	1.9K
American Pipit		-	-	-	-	-	1	-	136	-	1	-	310	-	-	1	-	-	-	8	35	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	523
House Finch		5	23	48	-	-	5	20	39	90	28	33	125	46	-	74	96	47	50	9	11	56	215	36	22	88	-	27	14	2	74	138	10	18	cw	63	1.5K
Purple Finch		-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Pine Siskin		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
American Goldfinch		87	23	19	2	28	69	25	188	50	83	26	41	19	15	75	13	56	38	104	40	43	33	111	59	149	14	74	49	43	101	200	45	7	107	166	2.2K
Lapland Longspur		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16

Appendix 1 - 2019-2020 Kentucky Christmas Bird Count Results - *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 96, No. 1

Kentucky Region	Jackson Purch.		Shawnee Hills					Highland Rim													Bluegrass								CPCM *								
Species	Count Circle Name	Ballard County	Calloway County	Davies County South	Mammoth Cave N.P.	Nolin River	Paradise	Sorgho	Allen County East	Allen County West	Barren River Lake	Bowling Green	Elkton	Glasgow	Green River Lake	Hart County	Hopkinsville	Land Between the Lakes	Lincoln's Birthplace	Otter Creek Park	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	Bernheim Forest	Burlington	Danville	Falmouth	Frankfort	Henry County	Kiebler WMA	Lexington	Louisville	Warsaw	Ashland, Boyd County	Cumberland Falls	London	Total
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chipping Sparrow	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	11	35	12	-	8	6	2	-	-	2	-	-	29	37	27	6	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-	3	49	246
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Field Sparrow	134	49	8	4	1	36	-	247	150	65	15	90	45	50	44	15	39	44	113	175	40	53	143	8	1	16	6	8	8	39	36	2	-	24	28	1.7K	
Fox Sparrow	10	3	-	-	-	14	2	6	27	-	-	2	1	8	3	-	-	-	6	4	5	-	7	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	109	
American Tree Sparrow	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	5	-	10	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	30	
Dark-eyed Junco	150	51	125	4	22	155	37	123	50	28	52	14	16	14	83	52	156	73	245	97	36	144	161	13	32	47	27	187	10	55	280	32	20	87	72	2.8K	
White-crowned Sparrow	11	26	7	-	12	25	-	90	100	35	6	47	13	29	16	3	-	57	16	9	-	2	23	-	67	2	34	75	-	9	17	12	-	-	2	745	
White-throated Sparrow	266	280	56	48	16	165	58	876	180	137	84	175	55	103	35	45	111	36	184	247	75	136	156	104	99	26	80	29	22	304	345	38	19	103	34	4.7K	
Vesper Sparrow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
LeConte's Sparrow	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	
Savannah Sparrow	167	75	13	-	1	15	-	64	20	6	3	100	2	15	2	-	-	14	-	11	7	21	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	550	
Song Sparrow	255	60	29	12	20	77	40	866	155	107	25	185	25	76	153	18	19	152	109	158	109	95	217	62	44	51	90	90	32	158	258	38	22	62	70	3.9K	
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Swamp Sparrow	237	40	-	-	2	110	-	185	42	44	8	140	7	30	15	23	3	58	32	19	23	19	51	8	1	6	4	12	7	7	11	-	3	2	2	1.2K	
Eastern Towhee	48	21	-	-	5	25	4	50	48	29	25	45	12	13	11	2	17	18	45	71	17	25	48	19	1	11	10	12	-	17	34	5	3	25	35	751	
Eastern Meadowlark	23	38	33	-	47	5	22	478	110	68	5	225	116	29	49	35	3	90	23	154	72	85	16	26	14	-	2	20	-	7	19	-	-	-	91	1.9K	
Western Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	388	186	413	-	101	1.9K	1.2K	163	125	381	14	5.8K	300	7	336	406	15	1	1	4	-	12	17	12	2	-	-	1	-	2	55	27	-	-	250	12.1K	
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	90	130	-	4	-	100	623	35	46	12	850	3	3	4	59	-	14	41	82	1	34	2	8	2	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	2.2K	
Rusty Blackbird	26	14	125	-	-	500	-	-	-	46	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	60	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	183	-	1	-	-	983	
Brewer's Blackbird	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	
Common Grackle	3	7	2.4K	-	-	1.4K	7.2K	121	75	cw	50	8.5K	-	40	-	16	310	1	-	31	1	-	22	4	31	-	4	-	-	2	40	2	-	-	-	20.3K	
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	5		
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1		
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	cw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	
Pine Warbler	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	21	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	25	-	24	26	123	-	132	28	66	15	10	11	86	38	12	9	17	54	76	62	205	45	9	3	23	6	11	2	16	15	9	4	6	6	1.2K	
Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Western Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1		
Northern Cardinal	104	100	132	10	56	152	92	353	200	132	93	240	101	105	105	136	81	221	152	365	128	257	244	114	321	65	156	171	48	538	394	43	28	133	203	5.8K	
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
TOTAL SPECIES	91	80	54	36	55	76	49	94	79	86	75	85	71	75	71	63	84	72	68	89	75	79	72	60	66	47	59	63	38	75	96	60	50	55	62	144	
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	26.8K	4.6K	9.8K	429	1.9K	9K	12.7K	16.7K	5.4K	14.7K	3.3K	34.8K	9.6K	3.6K	3.1K	2.4K	11.5K	4.6K	4.8K	6.5K	3.9K	11.5K	5.2K	3.5K	6K	1.7K	3.8K	3.8K	968	9.6K	15.1K	1.9K	1.1K	2.8K	4.6K	261.8K	

Notes: - *CPCM = Cumberland Plateau/Cumberland Mountains
- Data values of "cw" denote species seen during Count Week. Count Week constitutes the 7-day period including three days before and three days after Count Day.

The Kentucky Warbler

Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Vol. 96

May 2020

No. 2



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.....	39
THE WINTER SEASON, DECEMBER 2019 – FEBRUARY 2020	
Ronan O’Carra and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.	40
KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING	
Janet Kistler	52
FIELD NOTES	55
NEWS AND VIEWS	58

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

birdky.org

- President..... James A. Wheat, Taylorsville
- Vice-President Teresa Noel, Lexington
- Corresponding Secretary Debby Tyson
3601 Schochoh Road, Adairville, KY 42202-8030
- Treasurer..... Steve Kistler
1335 Sam Goodman Road, Munfordville, KY 42765-7105
- Recording Secretary Janet Kistler, Munfordville
- Curator..... Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Louisville
- Councillors
- 2017-2020..... Rickey Shive, Bowling Green
- 2017-2020..... Jennifer Snyder, Elizabethtown
- 2018-2021 Clay Bliznick, Hartford
- 2018-2021 Mary Yandell, Louisville
- 2019-2022..... Jeremy Teague, Calvert City
- 2019-2022..... Ray Bontrager, Monticello
- 2019-2022..... JoAnn Bochman, Beckham Bird Club representative
- Past President Jeff Sole, Frankfort

Affiliate

Beckham Bird Club (Louisville)

The Kentucky Warbler

The Kentucky Warbler is the journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. It is published quarterly in February, May, August and November, and is sent to current members. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. Send articles, field notes and other communications relevant to *The Kentucky Warbler* to the Editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

- Editor..... Ronan O’Carra
1212 Litchfield Lane, Lexington, KY 40513-1794
ronan.o.carra@gmail.com
- Production Assistant..... Steve Brown
- Photo Assistant..... Meg Brown
- Editorial Advisory Board..... Carol Besse, Blaine Ferrell
- Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC)..... Brian Wulker
3476 Alta Vista Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211
bdwulker@gmail.com

THE COVER

We thank Jamie Baker for his photograph of the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) taken 23 February 2020 in Todd County.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Birders,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. The front of this issue is adorned by a photo, courtesy of Jamie Baker, of the first Burrowing Owl to be reported in Kentucky. There is something special about a state first that entices birders from all over to come see it. The previous chaseable firsts, Cave Swallow and Lark Bunting, did not elicit the same response however. Owls seem to attract interest in those beyond birding and added to that, this is a species that is easily located and active during the day.

From all reports, most people who came to see the bird followed guidelines on how to view the Burrowing Owl. The distance and viewing behavior guidelines were set up to protect the bird from disturbance. We need to educate those that did not observe these guidelines (for the sake of getting a better photograph) on their responsibilities to both the bird and other observers. We should not let the actions of a few ruin it for others, and lead to future observations not being broadcast for fear of what some might do. This seems to be particularly important when it comes to owls. The use of baiting and excess flash photography seems to be an ongoing issue with the greater availability of photographic equipment and location specific reports. Please be aware and follow the ethics of birding as outlined by the American Birding Association (ABA) (<https://www.aba.org/aba-code-of-birding-ethics/>).

As you are aware the fall meeting has been cancelled, but birding activity will still abound on the KOS website in the form of a virtual meeting. The spring meeting, as reported in this issue by Janet Kistler, was a great success and we hope to further expand on this for the fall meeting.

Stay safe and happy birding,

Ronan O'Carra

CORRECTIONS

In *The Kentucky Warbler* February 2020 (Vol 96, Issue 1):

The Fall Seasonal Report included a report of Barn Owl from Jefferson County. This report is questionable and should have been omitted.

Subsequent documentation was received to add a single House Wren to the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This brings the LBL CBC species count up to 85. In addition, a clarification is needed for the Louisville CBC: one of three Orange-crowned Warblers was observed in Indiana rather than in Kentucky.

On the back page, the Scarlet Tanager image by Jeff Finn was taken in May 2020, not October 2019 as stated and should not have been included.

THE WINTER SEASON, DECEMBER 2019 – FEBRUARY 2020

Ronan O'Carra and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Climatic conditions during winter 2019-2020 were warmer and wetter than average. Temperatures during December and January were between 5 and 7°F above normal with February being 3-4°F above normal. Precipitation levels were variable throughout the state. During December rainfall in the west of the state was about average whereas the rest of the state was 2-3 inches above average. January rainfall was normal across the state while rainfall in February was 2-4 inches above normal.

Sightings are extracted from eBird (10,768 checklists and 105,319 individual observation records) with supplementary records from the BirdKy listserv and CBC reports. Comments about previous Kentucky bird records rely on the *Annotated Checklist* by Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2019. The species order is based on the Kentucky State list of Birds, Yandell 2019, with review species being capitalized and state firsts further underlined.

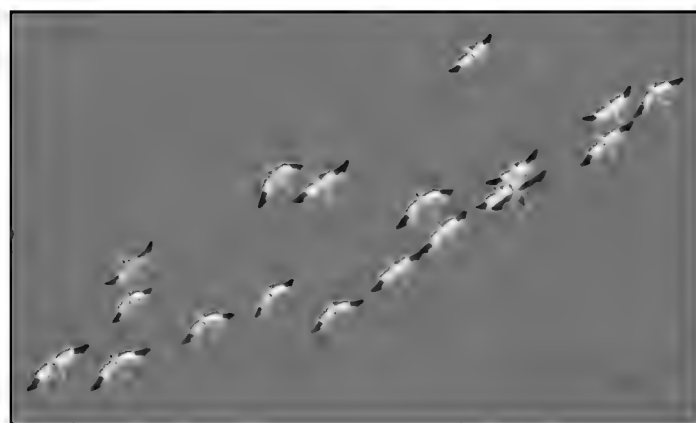
This winter season was unique in the variety of rarities, both lingering summer birds and migrants, as well as rarities for any season, that were found. The list was topped by the state's first record of Burrowing Owl, but also included Pacific Loon, Green Heron, Prairie Falcon (2), Harris's Sparrow, Western Tanager, Summer Tanager, and multiple sightings of Grasshopper Sparrows and Indigo Buntings. Winter finches were very scarce, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were essentially absent.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

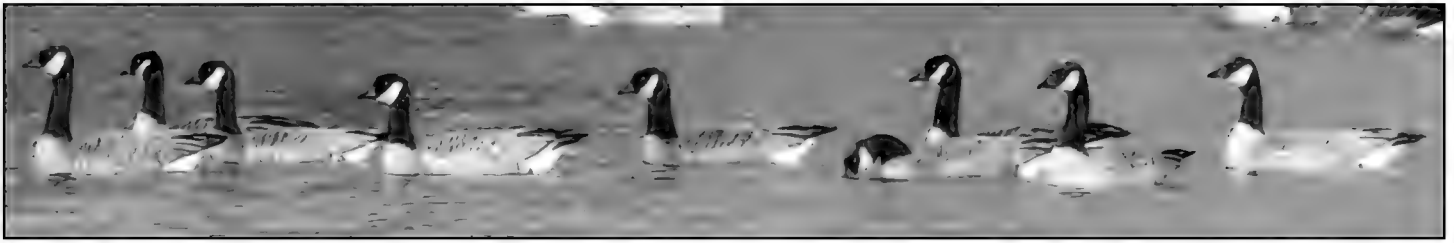
Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics* (sites not listing a county are detailed in the Locations and Abbreviations section); when used to separate dates, the "/" symbol is used in place of "and"; "ba." next to an observer's initials indicates that the bird was banded; "ph." next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); "au." next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with a voice recording; "†" next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; "m.ob." within observer initials indicates that the observation was seen by multiple observers.

Snow Goose – Peak counts were relatively unremarkable, probably in part due to the mild weather during the season. One near Maysville, *Mason*, 20 January (BWu) was the farthest east to be reported.

Ross's Goose – Small numbers were reported from no fewer than 13 counties. Reports of greatest interest included the season's peak count of 11 over Ky Bend, 27 January (†DRe); 1 along Austerlitz Road, *Bourbon*, 24/25 December (DSv, LCo/TNo) that was a county first; and 1 northeast of Eighty Eight, *Metcalfe*, 16 February (ph. RSh) that was a second record for the county.



Snow Geese – Fulton Co.
8 February 2020, David Lang



Cackling Geese – Oldham Co.
15 February 2020, James A. Wheat

Greater White-fronted Goose – Modest peak counts included 3200 at Ballard WMA, 17 December (BWu, EHo, BPa) and 7400 at the Sauerheber Unit, 6 January (TYo). Nine at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 24 December (ph. RDe) with 15 there the following day (TSa, LBe) were the farthest east to be reported.

Cackling Goose – Small numbers were reported at mostly now traditional wintering locales; other reports of interest included 4 at Hundred Acre Pond, *Hart*, 14 December (†SKi, JKi) which represented a county first; up to 12 at various locales in *Daviess* during January and February (m.ob.); and the season's peak count of 30 at Reformatory Lake, *Oldham*, 15 February (JWh).

Mute Swan – Most reports came from traditional locales where feral resident birds are known or believed to be involved.

Trumpeter Swan – There were a few reports from the sliver of floodplain north of the Ohio River north of Henderson, *Henderson*, during January, but none could be confirmed (eBird data).

Tundra Swan – The peak count for the wintering flock at the Sauerheber Unit during early December was 245, which were present 11 December (TYo); later in the season these birds apparently moved over to the flooded sloughs in the sliver of floodplain north of the Ohio River north of Henderson, *Henderson*, where up to 215 were reported during mid-January (ph. SGr, TGr, m.ob.). Reports of interest away from western *Henderson* included 2 southwest of Mayfield, *Graves*, 19 December (ph. BYa) - 28 January (m.ob.); 1 north of Lawrence-

burg, *Anderson*, 12 January (JBr, TES); 2 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 25 January (DSv, LCo); 8 at the former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*, 26 January (ph. BPa); perhaps the same juvenile on various transient ponds in *Metcalf*, *Barren*, and *Hart*, 1-17 February (ph. RSh, ph. JSo, m.ob.); and 12 northeast of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, 19-23 February (†SPe, ph. ROc, m.ob.).

Blue-winged Teal – It was extremely unusual for early winter to have a report of 3 at McElroy Lake, 17 December (ph. RSh) with 2 still there 19 December (ph. RSh) and 1 continuing there to 20 December (ph. RSh). Two at Camp Ernst Lake, *Boone*, 16 February (†THa) were the earliest returning spring migrants with small numbers present at scattered locales by the last week of February (eBird data).

Gadwall – Peak counts during the season included 800 at Ky Bend, 29 January (ALy) and 500 at McElroy Lake, 23 February (BPa, MMo).

American Wigeon – Peak counts during the season included 500 at Ky Bend, 29 January (ALy), 200 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, 16 February (CBl), and 104 east of Susie, *Wayne*, 3 February (RDe).

Northern Pintail – Relatively impressive peak counts included 2500 at Ky Bend, 27 January (DRe) and 1750 at and near Lake Number 9, west *Fulton*, 15 February (RDe). Other notable local peak counts included 270 at the Sauerheber Unit, 9 February (JMe) and 150 off the end of Frostburg Road, east *Hopkins*, 21 February (BPa).

Green-winged Teal – Peak counts during the season included an impressive flock of around 1600 at Ky Bend, 31 January (EHo, BPa, MMo) and 350 in the vicinity of Midway Church Road, Lower Hickman Bottoms, 19 February (LBo, AHi).



Long-tailed Duck – Bullitt Co.
5 January 2020, Steve Brown

Canvasback – Peak count during the season was 100 in floodwaters northeast of Anton, Hopkins, 21 February (BPa).

Redhead – Peak counts during the season included 300 on McElroy Lake, 23 February (BPa, MMo); 300 on Chaney Lake, Warren, 26 February (LBo); and 250 above Wolf Creek Dam, Russell, 29 February (DSv, LCo).

Ring-necked Duck – The peak count during the season was 1000 at Ballard WMA, 15 January (JBr).

Greater Scaup – The lack of cold weather during the season resulted in a below-average presence this year; very modest peak count of 50 on Ky Lake off Sherwood Shores, Marshall, 22 February (BPa).

Lesser Scaup – Peak count during the season was 700 on Blood River, 20 December (HCh, CBl, GBa).

Surf Scoter – There were two reports: a female/immature on the Ohio River just upstream from Louisville, 3 December-12 January (ph. BPa, JAr, m.ob.) and 2 females/immatures on Ky Lake above the dam, 4 December (BPa, †JBa).

White-winged Scoter – There were two reports: 1 on Ky Lake above the dam, 4 December (BPa, JBa) and 2 at the Ky Dam

Village marina, 22 February into March (ph. BPa m.ob.).

Black Scoter – There was only one report: a female/immature continued on the Ohio River in the Portland Canal, Louisville, to 15 December (m.ob.).

Long-tailed Duck – A female at Lake Nevin, Bernheim Forest, Bullitt, 5 January (ph. LMc m.ob.) was the only one reported.

Bufflehead – Peak counts during the season included 245 at Waitsboro, Somerset, 7 December (LBo) and 125 at Blood River, 20 December (HCh m.ob.).

Common Goldeneye – Peak counts during the season included modest tallies of 280 on Ky Lake above the dam, 25 January (DSi m.ob.); and 250 on Lake Barkley above the dam, 14 December (MAu).

Hooded Merganser – Peak count for the season was 395 at Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3, 22 January (SBr, MBr).

Common Merganser – Small numbers were reported at mostly traditional locales; reports of interest included 5 at the Sawyer Boat Ramp, Lake Cumberland, McCreary, 14 December (LMi, TMi, JKs); 2 on the Ohio River at Maysville, Mason, 28 January (DPa); and 3 on Lake Cumberland at Carter Dock, Wayne, 29 February (RBo).

Horned Grebe – 250 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam, Russell, 22 January (LBo) represented the peak count for the season.

Eared Grebe – A single bird again wintered on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam, Russell, with reports from 22 January/5 February (LBo) and 1 February (JSO).

Rufous Hummingbird – There were two reports: an immature female that continued from November and wintered outside LaGrange, Oldham, through the season (ph. APe, JPe, BPa, m.ob.); and an adult female at Florence, Boone, first noted during early November, banded 8 December, and last observed 10 December (DBr, ba. BPa, ph. JCa).

Virginia Rail – The species was reported at two locales: up to 4 [31 January] were present (grunt calls heard) at the Long Point Unit, 14 December-1 February (BP_a, CB_l, TJ_o, m.ob.); 1 was also heard at the former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*, 26 January (BP_a).

Sora – There were two reports: 1 heard (whinny) at the Sauerheber Unit, 8 December (JMe), and 1 heard (kree) at the Long Point Unit, 31 January (BP_a, EH_o, MM_o).

Sandhill Crane – Excessive winter rains caused Barren River Lake to rise well above summer pool level, so few cranes gathered there during the winter season as normal; the modest peak count of 921 occurred there 26 December (WT_a); all other peak counts came from west *Hardin*, where up to 5000 were counted during mid-February (JSn m.ob.).

Killdeer – Peak counts during the season included 700 at McElroy Lake, 8 December (RSh); 400 at a transient pond north of Hadensville, south *Todd*, 26 December (JHa, SAR); and 350 northwest of Oak Grove, south *Christian*, 23 December (JHa).

Dunlin – 2 lingered on a farm pond southwest of Trenton, south *Todd*, to 3 December (JHa) with one last seen there 23 December (ph. SAR).

Least Sandpiper – A few birds lingered into early December in *Christian* (JHa) and *Todd* (JHa), and at Blood River (HCh); the species wintered at Frogue Pond, *Todd*, with a high count of 5 there on a few dates during the

season (JHa, ph. SAR, m.ob.); also reported were 7 at Jonathan Creek, 7 December (HCh); 1 on a pond in southwest *Logan*, 26 December (ph. DH_a); 2 along McDonald Landing Road, west *Henderson*, 16 February (ph. RCr); and 6 on a transient pond southwest of Trenton, south *Todd*, 27 February (ph. JHa). The appearance of a few more birds during the last two weeks of February likely indicates an early push of spring migrants.

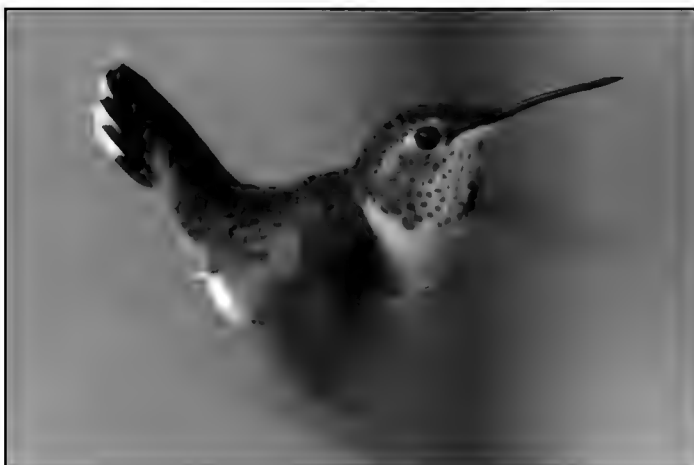
Pectoral Sandpiper – 5 south of Middleton, *Simpson*, 23 February (†DP_a) and 15 at McElroy Lake, 28 February (†BW_u, EH_o, BP_a) were the earliest spring migrants to be reported.

Greater Yellowlegs – One individual lingered on a pond southwest of Trenton, *Todd*, to 11 December (ph. JHa); 1 at McElroy Lake, 14 February (ph. RSh) was the earliest spring migrant to be reported.

Herring Gull – Peak counts for the season all came from the Calvert City landfill and included an estimate of 500 there on 21 January (ALy, DRe).



Iceland Gull – Lyon Co.
4 December 2019, Jamie Baker



Rufous Hummingbird – Oldham Co.
23 February 2020, Mike Callan

Iceland Gull – There were reports (all of *L. g. thayeri*) from four locales: an adult at Barkley Dam, 4 December (ph. BP_a, ph. JB_a) with a first-year bird there 28 December (†ALy); a first-year bird at the Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 10 December (ph. BP_a, JB_a); a first-year bird continuing from November at Ky Dam, 13 December (†BP_a) and 25 January (DSi m.ob.); a first-year bird at the Calvert City landfill, 7

December (ph. JPo, HCh, m.ob.) with 2 first-year birds there 21-25 January (ph. ALy, DRe, m.ob.); and an adult and a first-year bird at Barkley Dam, 30 January (†EHo, BPa, MMo). Also, a paler bird, possibly an intergrade or *L. g. kumlieni*, was at the Calvert City landfill, 7 December (ph. JPo, HCh, m.ob.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – The species was reported mostly at traditional locales; reports of interest included 3 adults on the Ohio River at Louisville, 16 December (ph. JBa m.ob.); a remarkable total away from the lakes and landfill of 7 with a large collection of other gulls in a flooded field southwest of Mayfield, *Graves*, 24 January (ph. ALy, ph. CBl); and 1 adjacent to the Long Point Unit, 16 February (JHa). Other local peak counts during the season included 6 at Ky Dam and 18 at the Calvert City landfill (for a new state high count of at least 24), all 13 December (BPa), and 6 at Sledd Creek, 22 February (†BPa).

Glaucous Gull – There were two reports: a first-year bird at and near Barkley Dam, 4-14 December (ph. BPa, ph. JBa, m.ob.) and a first-year bird at the Calvert City landfill, 30 January (ph. EHo, CBl, MMo, BPa).



Glaucous Gull – Marshall Co.
30 January 2020, Mark Monroe

Forster's Tern – As is the norm, small groups lingered on the Sledd Creek, Jonathan Creek, and Blood River embayments of Ky Lake into mid-December with a few lingering

through the season at the first two locales (HCh, CBl).

Red-throated Loon – There were two reports: 1 on Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*, 5-7 January (BPa, ph. MMo, MSt, m.ob.); and 2 on Ky Lake off Sherwood Shores, *Marshall*, 22 February (ph. BPa).

Pacific Loon – There were two reports: singles (perhaps the same individual) at Sledd Creek, 4 December (ph. JBa, BPa) and 22 February (ph. BPa).

American White Pelican – The only report away from traditional western Kentucky locales was a migrant flock of around 90 individuals north of Waverly, *Union*, 9 February (MSt, ph. BPa).

Great Egret – There were three reports of birds lingering into early winter: 1 lingered below Barren River Lake dam, *Allen/Barren*, to at least 19 December (SSt m.ob.); 2 at Sandy Watkins Park, *Henderson*, 20 December (ph. CCr); and 1 northeast of Temperance, northeast *Simpson*, 4 January (†KWe).

Green Heron – There was one report: 1 at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, north *Franklin*, 1 February (ph. RCh).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – In addition to observations of a few birds at traditional wintering spots, one was present at the Van Buren boat ramp, Taylorsville Lake, *Ander-son*, 5 January (ph. DPa).

Osprey – There was one report: 1 on a quarry lake off Aiken Road, east *Jefferson*, 15 December (†JWh).

Golden Eagle – 5 different individuals were noted at the traditional wintering locale at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, during the season (KVo); other reports included 1 just north of LBL near Grand Rivers, *Livingston*, 14 December (†ARa); a juvenile over Highland Church Road, *Allen*, 28 December (ph. VSt/RSt); a probable sub-adult over the Ky River at Lockport, *Henry/Owen* (RRa, ph. BPa, MAu, m.ob.); and a probable juvenile at Ft. Campbell, *Christian*, 19 January (†CRo/HDo).

Red-tailed Hawk – There were nearly a dozen reports of western forms during the season (eBird data). All were from expected areas and during expected times. The recent transition in prevailing terminology used for some of these birds has resulted in replacement of names of birds formerly considered to be *B. j. calurus* now being referred to as *B. j. abeiticola*. There will certainly be some confusion of terminology as this topic evolves, but photo-documentation of birds in non-typical plumages for future review is advisable.

Rough-legged Hawk – This species has essentially become a rarity in the state over the past ten years. There was only one report during the season: 1 along Brown Road, northeast *Hopkins*, 17 December (ph. DLa, JSo).

Barn Owl – The species continues to be more regular in occurrence with six reports in eBird during the season and 1-4 reported on four CBCs.

BURROWING OWL – First state record. A single bird wintered at a road culvert west-southwest of Allensville, *Todd*, (JBc, ph. JHa, ph. SAR, m.ob.). It was first noted during mid-February and lingered through the season. KBRC review required. See details elsewhere in the Field Notes section of this issue.

Short-eared Owl – It was a poor season for the species with reports from only four locales: 1-2 at the Sinclair Unit on a few dates between 2 December (PFo, SFo) and 8 January (TGr, SGr); 1 north of Nicholasville, *Jessamine*, 14 December (KBi, SPe, LTh); 1 on the south side of Lexington, 7 January (EMa); 1 at Ky Bend, 27 January (DRe) with 3 there 31 January (ph. BPa, MMo, EHo); and 1-2 at Talon Winery, *Fayette*, 16 February (m.ob.).

Merlin – Winter season reports have become so remarkably common as to not warrant listing herein! There were reports from no fewer than 13 counties in eBird for the

season including 7 on the Louisville CBC 15 December (*fide* JWh).

Peregrine Falcon – Essentially all reports were of birds from known nesting or wintering territories; the exception was 1 northeast of Olmstead, *Logan*, 26 December (ph. DHa).

PRAIRIE FALCON – Probably the same individual that has been present off and on during the past few winter seasons northeast of Anton, *Hopkins*, continued from late November through December; it was last reported 14 January (ph. SGr m.ob.). Also, quite remarkable was one photographed at Louisville, 15 Dec (ph. JBa) for an unexpected county first. KBRC review required.



Prairie Falcon – Hopkins Co.
07 January 2020, Steve Graham

Loggerhead Shrike – A tally of 7 on the Hart County CBC on 14 December (*fide* SKi) was quite impressive. 1-7 were reported on 11 CBCs.

White-eyed Vireo – There were *three* reports: 1 south of Elkton, *Todd*, a few times during the week or so prior to and on 26 December (JBc, MBe, ph. ATr); 1 at the Walnut Creek embayment, Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 28

December (ph. VSt, RSt); and 1 at Diamond Caverns Resort, *Barren*, 15 January (†SKi, JKi, CFr).

American Crow – An estimated 1500 were at the traditional roost along I-75 at the US 25 Corbin exit, *Knox*, 27 December (MCm).

Fish Crow – There were several reports from western Kentucky during this mild winter season including 2 over Murray, *Calloway*, 8 December (†ALy); 1 at Blood River, 14 January (†HCh); and 2 at Ky Bend, 8 February (DLa, JTe). Small numbers were then reported at a few locales by mid- to late February.

Tree Swallow – A very tardy individual was seen at McElroy Lake, 10 December (†/ph. RSh); the earliest returning spring birds included 1 at Jacobson Park, Lexington, 19 February (ph. DLa), and singles in south *Todd*, 21 February (JHa) and 22 February (DHa).

Purple Martin – 1 at Bowling Green, *Warren*, on 27 February (TDu) was the earliest to be reported.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – The species was essentially absent during the season without a single report documented with photos or voice recordings.

Brown-headed Nuthatch – Up to 6 (19 January [DSv, LCo]) continued at the London Ranger District Office, DBNF, *Laurel*, territory through the season.

House Wren – There were not quite as many reports this winter, all being included here: singles along London Dock Road, *Laurel* (†RDe), and in north LBL, *Lyon* (†MAu), both 14 December; 1 on the Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 15/25 December (ph. PSp, JBe, PBe/JBe, PBe); 1 west-northwest of Hydro, *Warren*, 19/26 December (au. AHu); 1 on the Barren River Lake CBC, *Allen*, 19 December (*fide* JWh); 1 in north *Russell* 21 December (†RBo); 2 on Ft. Knox, *Meade*, 28 December (ph. BPa); 1 at Lily Mt. Nature Preserve, *Estill*, 5 January (ph. TNo, NBr); 2 at different locales northeast of Monticello, *Wayne* (LBo), and 1 northeast of Betsey

(BKu), all 4 January; 1 at Ky Bend, 31 January (ph. BPa, MMo, EHo); 1 at the Kendall Recreation Area, *Russell*, 5 February (†LBo); and 1 near Bens Cliff, *Wayne*, 16 February (†LBo).

Sedge Wren – There were reports from three locales: 2 at the Long Point Unit, 14 December (†BPa, CBl); 1 at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 30 Jan (ph. CBl, BPa, EHo, MMo); and 1 below Barkley Dam, *Lyon*, 21 February (ph. JTe). Under KBRC review.



Sedge Wren – Lyon Co.
21 February 2020, Jeremy Teague

Marsh Wren – There were reports from five locales: 1-2 at the Long Point Unit, 14 December (ph. CBl, BPa), 31 December (JTe, MGr), and 31 January (BPa, MMo, EHo); 1 heard along Rockport-Paradise Road, east *Muhlenberg*, 30 December (BPa); 1 along KY 502 at Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, 5 January (ph. MMo, BPa, MSt); 2 along Gray-Aldridge Road, *Union*, 26 January (ph. BPa); and a remarkable count of at least 5 (1 seen and 4 more heard calling) at the former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*, 26 January (†BPa).

VARIED THRUSH – A male was present in a yard northeast of Lyndon, *Jefferson*, 10 February (ph. PBe, JBe, ph. BPa). KBRC review required.

Gray Catbird – There were four reports: 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 15 December (†MYa); 1 north of Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 21 December (ph. RDe); 1 at the Russell Springs City Park, *Russell*, 21 December (RBo); 1 at the Walnut Creek embayment of Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 28

December (ph. VSt, RSt); and 1 at the Louisville Water Company Ponds, northeast *Jefferson*, 23 February (†MCA).

Cedar Waxwing – A few more birds lingered through the season than during the past few winters; 1-280 were reported on 27 CBCs.

American Pipit – Typical numbers appeared to be present, mostly in farmland of the south part of the state, with 1-310 reported on eight CBCs.

Purple Finch – After being barely reported during fall migration, there were only a handful of verified reports during the season; 2-10 were reported on six CBCs.



Purple Finch – Metcalfe Co.
29 February 2020, Rickey Shive

Pine Siskin – The species was very scarce during the season, with the only well-verified report in eBird being 2 continuing from November at a feeding station at Prospect, *Oldham*, 2 Dec (ITh). The only report from CBCs was for 3 on the Allen County East count.

Lapland Longspur – Not numerous this winter, probably in large part due to mild weather. Mostly found at traditional locales with 1 in east *Shelby* on 24 December (KRi) being the farthest east to be reported. A very modest peak count of only 50 was reported in the Lower Hickman Bottoms, 14 December (BPa, CBl).

Grasshopper Sparrow – There were remarkably *three* documented reports during the season: 1 at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 19 December (†BPa, EHo) and 30 January (ph. CBl, MMo, EHo, BPa); 1 along Stratton

Road north of Elkton, *Todd*, 26 December (†RSt, †VSt); and 1 at Ky Bend, 27 January (ph. DRe). All under KBRC review.

Chipping Sparrow – Not quite as numerous this winter with 1-49 reported on 18 CBCs.

Clay-colored Sparrow – 1 at Ballard WMA, 17 December (†CBl, ph. DRe, ALy) represented a first report for the state during the winter season. See details in the Field Notes section of this issue. Under KBRC review.

Fox Sparrow – Not particularly numerous this winter with 1-27 reported on 20 CBCs.

American Tree Sparrow – Not numerous or widespread this winter (probably in large part due to relatively mild weather) with 1-10 reported on only eight CBCs.

Dark-eyed Junco – There were three reports of members of the western race, *J. hyemalis oregonus* (Oregon Junco): a male present off and on for the fifth winter in a row in a yard at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson* (ph. MYa, BYa); a male at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 17 January (ph. KBi) and a likely female at Ft. Knox, *Meade*, 28 December (ph. BPa).

White-crowned Sparrow – Up to 75 (8 February [ALy]) were reported at Ky Bend during the season.

Harris's Sparrow – One was at a yard along Kingston Road, southwest *Graves*, from at least 31 December to the end of February (ph. MCo); this was certainly a bird returning from winter 2018-2019.

Vesper Sparrow – There was an above-average number of reports, all being included here: 1 along Justice Road south-southeast of Murray, *Calloway*, 20 December (†ALy); 3 along Old Volney Road, *Todd*, 26 December (RSt, ph. VSt, BPa); 1 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 26 December (†SAr, †JHa); 1 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 14 January (†TGr, SGr); and 8 at Ky Bend, 20 January (ph. DRe, ALy) with 4 still there on 29 January (ph. ALy).

LeConte's Sparrow – The species was reported from three locales as follows: at

least 3 at the Long Point Unit, 14 December (ph. BPa, CBl); at least 6 at Ballard WMA, 17 December (ph. ALy, ph. DRe, CBl, m.ob.); 1 along Doss Kennedy Road southwest of Maynard, *Allen*, 28 Dec (†JBk); and good numbers at Ky Bend, 20 January-19 February (ALy m.ob.) with new state high counts of at least 23 there on 27 January (ph. DRe) and at least 34 there on 31 January (ph. BPa, MMo, EHo).

Savannah Sparrow – Peak counts during the season included up to 350 at Ky Bend, 8 February (ALy) and 115 at Ballard WMA, 17 December (ALy, DRe, CBl).

Lincoln's Sparrow – There were reports from two locales: 1 along Claudis Harris Road southwest of Scottsville, *Allen*, 4 January (†JBk); and a remarkable total of at least 3 (2 photographed) were seen at Ky Bend, 31 January (ph. BPa, MMo, EHo).

Swamp Sparrow – An impressive tally of at least 467 at Ky Bend on 31 January (EHo, MMo, BPa) represented a new state high count.



Spotted Towhee – Fulton Co.
31 January 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr.

SPOTTED TOWHEE – A female was present at Ky Bend, *Fulton*, 31 January-19 February (ph. BPa, ph. MMo, EHo, m.ob.). KBRC review required.

Western Meadowlark – There were four reports: 1 along KY 87 between Tracy and Austin, *Barren*, 28 Dec (†RBo) that represented a county first; 2 along KY 307 several miles north of Fulton, *Hickman*, 28 January (†DRe); 2 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms,



Northern Waterthrush – Jefferson Co.
06 January 2020, Maria Koukoulas

19 February (†LBo, AH*i*); and 1 along Ogden Landing Road, *McCracken*, 23 February (†ALy).

Orchard/Scott's Oriole – A “yellow” oriole reported as a female Orchard was documented from Prospect, *Jefferson*, 15 December (wr. JKr) but details did not eliminate Scott's from consideration.

Rusty Blackbird – Peak counts during the season included 775 in farmland near the mouth of the Green River northeast of Henderson, *Henderson*, 14 December (JMe, SH*e*); at least 425 adjacent to the Louisville landfill, 12 January (MAu); 200 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 7 December (KMi); and at least 200 in east *Hopkins*, 21 February (BPa).

Brewer's Blackbird – Mostly small numbers were reported at mostly traditional locales as follows: 2 along Lawson-Poindexter Road, south *Todd*, 1 December (ph. SAr); small numbers along and near Frostburg Road, east *Hopkins*, 1-17 December (m.ob. [eBird data]); singles at the Calvert City landfill, 4 December (BPa, JBa) and 23 January (DSi); 17 along Smokey Road, *Ballard*, 17 December (ph. BPa, m.ob.); 1 east of Flaherty, *Meade*, 28 December (ph. BPa, m.ob.); at least 115 along Pack Church Road, *McLean*, 5 January (ph. BPa, MMo, MSt); and 1 west of Allensville, *Todd*, 23 January (RSt, VSt).

Northern Waterthrush – One was present at Caperton Swamp Park, *Jefferson*, 5 January-1 February (ph. MKo m.ob.). Under KBRC review.

Orange-crowned Warbler – Continuing the trend from the previous several winter seasons, there were an above-average number of reports, all being included here: 1 at Shippingport Island, *Jefferson*, 7/8 December (†/ph. PBe, JBe)-30 January (PSP); 1 at the Shawnee Park Riverwalk, *Jefferson*, 14 December (JSd); singles (possibly same bird) at Lake No. 9, west *Fulton*, 14 December (ph. CBl, BPa) and 4 February (ph. DRe, ALy); singles at Surrey Hills Farm († BPa) and at Riverfront Park, Louisville (ph. JBa), both 15 December; 1 at the Larue County Sportsman's Lake, 27 December (†JSn, SCl); 1 northwest of Austin, *Barren*, 28 Dec (†RBo); 1 coming to a suet feeder at Rolling Hills, *Jefferson*, during all of February (ESc, ph. BPa); and 1 below Ky Dam, *Marshall*, 21 January (ph. DRe, ALy).

Nashville Warbler – A tardy individual was photographed at Ky Dam, *Livingston*, 4 December (BPa, ph. JBa).



Nashville Warbler – Livingston Co.
4 December 2019, Jamie Baker

Common Yellowthroat – There were reports from five locales: 1 at the Sauerheber Unit, 8 December (au. JMe); 1 at the J.J. Audubon State Park wetland, *Henderson*, 14 December/14 January (au. JMe, SHe/†TGr, SGr); 1 heard along Rockport-Paradise Road, *Muhlenberg*, 30 December (†BPa); a male at the former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*, 26

January (ph. BPa); and 1 at Ky Bend, *Fulton*, 31 January (ph. BPa, MMo, EHo).

Northern Parula – 1 at Caperton Swamp Park, *Jefferson*, 15 December (ph. JBa) was a first for the state during the winter season.



Northern Parula – Jefferson Co.
15 December 2019, Jamie Baker

Palm Warbler – Average number of reports with 1-2 reported at no fewer than seven locations during the season (eBird data) and singles reported on seven CBCs.

Pine Warbler – As is the norm, small numbers (1-3) were reported at scattered locales during the season.

Prairie Warbler – One was photographed below Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 21 December (ph. RDe). Under KBRC review.

Summer Tanager – A female was present in a yard at Louisville, 20 January-1 March (ph. BNi). Under KBRC review.

WESTERN TANAGER – A male wintered in a yard at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, 8 December through the season (ph. LSq m.ob.). KBRC review required.

Indigo Bunting – There were reports from three locales: 1 was present at a yard at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 2 December-9 January (ph. RDe); 1 at Richmond, *Madison*, 23 January (ph. DPr); and 4 at Ky Bend, *Fulton*, 29 January (ph. ALy) with perhaps a different individual located more than a half mile away 31 January (ph. BPa, MMo, EHo).

REFERENCES

eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relJan-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. January 2020.

Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Third Edition. The Kentucky Ornithological Society, 2019

Yandell, B. 2019. 19th Report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. *The Kentucky Warbler*, 95: 112-120

LOCATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (*Italics* indicate a county name)

Ballard WMA, *Ballard*

Barkley Dam, *Lyon* (unless otherwise noted)

Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren* (unless otherwise noted)

Blood River = Blood River embayment of Ky Lake, *Calloway*

Calvert City Landfill, *Marshall*

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

Jacobson Park, Lexington, *Fayette*

Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, *Marshall*

Ky Bend = Kentucky Bend, west *Fulton*

Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*

Ky Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*

Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway/Marshall/Trigg*

LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*

Lexington, *Fayette*

Long Point Unit = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*

Lower Hickman Bottoms, west *Fulton*

Louisville, *Jefferson*

McElroy Lake, south *Warren*

Sauerheber Unit = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*

Sinclair Unit = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*

Sledd Creek = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Marshall*

SP = State Park

SRP = State Resort Park

WMA = Wildlife Management Area.



Grasshopper Sparrow – Fulton Co.
27 January 2020, Daniel Redwine



Vesper Sparrow – Fulton Co.
20 January 2020, Daniel Redwine

KEY TO OBSERVER CODES

AHi – Asher Higgins
AHu – Aaron Hulsey
ALy – Andrew Lydeard
APe – Anna Perry
ARa – Andy Radomski
ATr – Alan Troyer
BAt – Brooks Atherton
BKu – Bret Kuss
BNi – Barry Nichols
BPa – Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
BWu – Brian Wulker
BYa – Ben Yandell
CBl – Clay Bliznick
CCr – Charlie Crawford
CFr – Carol Friedman
CRo – Craig Robson
DBr – Debbie Brungs
DHa – Debbie Hamilton
DLa – David Lang
DPa – Daniel Patrick
DPr – Dave Pritchard
DRe – Daniel Redwine
DSi – Damien Simbek
DSv – Dave Svetich
EHo – Eric Hope
EMa – Erich Maul
ESc – Eileen Schweinardt
GBa – Gage Barnes
HCh – Hap Chambers
HDo – Heidi Doman
ITh – Indira Thirkannad
JAr – Jim Arnett
JBa – Jamie Baker
JBc – John Beachy
JBe – Jane Bell
JBk – John David Brubaker
JBr – John Brunjes
JCa – Joey Caminiti
JHa – Joe Hall
JKs – James Kiser
JKi – Janet Kistler
JKr – John Krull
JMe – John Meredig
JPe – Julie Pezzarossi
JPo – Josh Powell
JSd – Jake Souder



LeConte's Sparrow – Fulton Co.
31 January 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr.

JSn – Jennifer Snyder	PFo – Preston Forsythe
JSo – Jeff Sole	PSp – Pam Spaulding
JTe – Jeremy Teague	RBo – Ray Bontrager
JWh – James Wheat	RCh – Rob Chadwick
KBi – Kyle Bixler	RCr – Rodney Crice
KMi – Keith Michalski	RDe – Roseanna Denton
KRi – Keith Richardson	ROc – Ronan O'Carra
KVo – Kelly Vowels	RRa – Reuben Raber
KWe – Karl Weaver	RSh – Rickey Shive
LAt – Lyn Atherton	RSt – Ruben Stoll
LBe – Larissa Bernecker	SAr – Sharon Arnold
LBo – Lyle Bontrager	SBr – Steve Brown
LCo – Lisa Combs	SCl – Sean Clinning
LMc – Lindsey McMahon	SFo – Shari Forsythe
LMi – Lynda Mills	SGr – Steve Graham
LSq – Lee Squires	SHe – Stephen Heeger
LTh – Laurie Thomas	SKi – Steve Kistler
MAu – Michael Autin	SPe – Sydney Penner
MBe – Marvin Beachy	SSt – Stephen Stedman
MBr – Meg Brown	TDu – Tom Durbin
MCa – Mike Callan	TEs – Terri Estes
Mcm – Matthew Campbell	TGr – Teresa Graham
MCo – Marta Coleman	THa – Troy Hale
MGr – Mark Greene	TJo – Timothy Jones
MKo – Maria Koukoulas	TMi – Tom Mills
MMo – Mark Monroe	TNo – Teresa Noel
MSt – Matt Stickel	TSa – Thadius Sales
MYa – Mary Yandell	TYo – Thomas Young
NBr – Nancy Braun	VSt – Victor Stoll
PBe – Pat Bell	WTa – Wayne Tamminga



KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (KOS) VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING Kentucky, April 17 – 19, 2020

Janet Kistler, KOS Recording Secretary

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, KOS had to cancel the annual spring meeting, scheduled to take place the 3rd weekend in April at Carter Caves State Resort Park. Instead, we went virtual, creating an online birders' experience for the same weekend.

The activities started a few days before the meeting on Wednesday, April 15, with the first round of voting in our April Madness Tournament. Participants voted in an online poll to name the favorite KOS warbler of 2020 – 32 warblers/16 matchups. Voting continued the next day in the “Tweet 16” to narrow the field.



Beginning April 17, participants were able to access an array of activities. There were some events that were offered every day. Number one was the charge to “Go Birding” while observing safe social distancing and to report observations on eBird. Other features that recurred daily were *Steve’s Bird Quiz* (a different quiz each day provided by Steve Kistler) and *Old School Bird Name Puzzler* (3 different puzzlers, provided by James Wheat). Voting continued in the April Madness tournament each day with the “Chirpionship” on Sunday. Participants were encouraged to share pictures and comments during the weekend, as well.

Special Day 1 features included a welcome message from James Wheat, KOS President. Visitors were wowed by a video showing stunning photos taken by KOS members – *Birding with a Camera*, produced by Pam Spaulding. Also featured on Day 1 – *The 2019 Bluebird Report* by Bob and Judy Peak who monitor and maintain 230 bluebird nest boxes at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area and Lake Barkley State Resort Park. In addition, there was a short but challenging *Feather Quiz*, written by Regina Garr.

On Day 2, visitors to the KOS site were able to access more activities. Special Day 2 features included information about our “keynote speaker,” Todd Fearer, American Bird Conservancy, Appalachian Joint Venture Project Director. Since he was unable to physically attend our meeting, he provided access to some of the Project’s *Virtual Field Tours*. KOS member Win Ahrens shared a slide show of his trip from Portugal to Africa’s southern tip in 2018 showing many exotic birds and sights. Bob and Judy Peak contributed a bird quiz – *What’s in a Name* – testing our knowledge of scientific bird names.

In addition to the daily features, Day 3 was packed with things to do. Steve and Janet Kistler provided a virtual wildflower walk through the beautiful Cedar Sink Trail at Mammoth Cave National Park. Kate Slankard, with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared a report about *Barn Owls in Kentucky*. Meg Brown created a presentation to showcase Tommy Quarles’s bird photos. He won first place for photography in the American Birding Association (ABA) 2020 Young Birders competition. KOS member Rickey Shive shared an awesome video about birding at McElroy, a transient lake in Warren County. And, the Blackburnian Warbler was crowned

Favorite KOS Warbler of 2020, after a hard-fought contest with the Kentucky Warbler in the final match.

Using eBird reports, we listed the birds that were reported each day of the virtual spring meeting, with a whopping 190 species seen across the state. Good work, Kentucky’s birders! We created a remarkable list of birds working together, but safely apart.

Several folks worked hard to put it all together. Steve and Meg Brown were responsible for the amazing website – creating it in record time (with little sleep some days). They wrote the copy for the pages, organized the offerings, posted comments and photos, and made the technology work beautifully. Steve and Janet Kistler contributed content, created graphics, managed the April Madness tournament, and offered ideas. Teresa Noel was involved in every aspect of the weekend and helped solicit content. We are very grateful to the other contributors: James Wheat, Pam Spaulding, Win Ahrens, Regina Garr, Bob and Judy Peak, Rickey Shive, Kate Slankard, and Todd Fearer.

The virtual meeting offered birders a chance to learn, to contribute to the statewide bird list, and to share laughs, beauty, and wonder. Thanks to everyone who took part in the meeting. You made it fun! The KOS website saw a dramatic increase in visitation, with 402 unique visitors over the course of the weekend. Each visitor averaged 2.2 visits. Many visitors contributed photos and positive comments. It is clear the meeting was a success.

You can still access all the weekend’s activities on the KOS website – www.birdky.org. We will archive it at some future date, but it will remain available.

Virtual KOS Meeting Bird List

This list is a compilation of 190 bird species seen throughout Kentucky over the meeting weekend.

Canada Goose	Chuck-will's-widow	Lesser Yellowlegs
Mute Swan	Eastern Whip-poor-will	Bonaparte's Gull
Wood DuckBlue-winged Teal	Chimney Swift	Laughing Gull
Northern Shoveler	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Ring-billed Gull
Gadwall	Sora	Herring Gull
American Wigeon	American Coot	Caspian Tern
Mallard	Sandhill Crane	Forster's Tern
Green-winged Teal	Black-necked Stilt	Pacific Loon
Lesser Scaup	American Avocet	Common Loon
Bufflehead	Semipalmated Plover	Neotropic Cormorant
Hooded Merganser	Killdeer	Double-crested Cormorant
Ruddy Duck	Upland Sandpiper	American White Pelican
Northern Bobwhite	Dunlin	Least Bittern
Ruffed Grouse	Least Sandpiper	Great Blue Heron
Wild Turkey	Pectoral Sandpiper	Great Egret
Pied-billed Grebe	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Little Blue Heron
Horned Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher	Cattle Egret
Eared Grebe	Wilson's Snipe	Green Heron
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Spotted Sandpiper	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Solitary Sandpiper	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Mourning Dove	Greater Yellowlegs	White Ibis
Black-billed Cuckoo	Willet	Glossy Ibis

Virtual KOS Meeting Bird List (Continued)

Black Vulture	Swallow	Eastern Meadowlark
Turkey Vulture	Purple Martin	Orchard Oriole
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Baltimore Oriole
Northern Harrier	Bank Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Barn Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cooper's Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Rusty Blackbird
Bald Eagle	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
Red-shouldered Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Ovenbird
Broad-winged Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Worm-eating Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Louisiana Waterthrush
Barn Owl	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Northern Waterthrush
Eastern Screech-Owl	House Wren	Blue-winged Warbler
Great Horned Owl	Winter Wren	Black-and-white Warbler
Burrowing Owl	Marsh Wren	Prothonotary Warbler
Barred Owl	Carolina Wren	Swainson's Warbler
Belted Kingfis'her	European Starling	Tennessee Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Gray Catbird	Orange-crowned Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Nashville Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Kentucky Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Common Yellowthroat
Hairy Woodpecker	Swainson's Thrush	Hooded Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Cape May Warbler
Northern Flicker	Wood Thrush	Cerulean Warbler
American Kestrel	American Robin	Northern Parula
Merlin	House Sparrow	Magnolia Warbler
Eastern Phoebe	American Pipit	Blackburnian Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher	House Finch	Yellow Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Purple Finch	Blackpoll Warbler
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	American Goldfinch	Palm Warbler
White-eyed Vireo	Grasshopper Sparrow	Pine Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Chipping Sparrow	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Field Sparrow	Yellow-throated Warbler
Warbling Vireo	Lark Sparrow	Prairie Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco	Black-throated Green Warbler
Loggerhead Shrike	White-crowned Sparrow	Summer Tanager
Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow	Scarlet Tanager
American Crow	Savannah Sparrow	Northern Cardinal
Fish Crow	Henslow's Sparrow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow	Blue Grosbeak
Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow	Indigo Bunting
Horned Lark	Eastern Towhee	
Northern Rough-winged	Yellow-breasted Chat	



FIELD NOTES

Kentucky’s First Winter Record of Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

When the Christmas Bird Count season comes around, the Ballard CBC is always one of the counts I look forward to the most. Located in the far reaches of Western Kentucky, just north of where the Ohio River meets the Mississippi, the area is well-known for its overwhelming abundance of wintering waterfowl. While not as recognized, there is also an exceptional diversity of sparrows that spend their winters here foraging in the damp fields of foxtail and bluestem. This was particularly evident on the most recent CBC, on December 17th, 2019.

The temperature hovered around freezing all morning, but the wind was calm. Andrew Lydeard, Daniel Redwine, and I had been birding the fields within Ballard WMA and were having a stellar morning in terms of sparrow species. We then decided to walk out to the Ohio River to scan for waterbirds. On the way we stopped to pish alongside the road, where a considerable number of sparrows responded by flying up from the grass and perching in some bare shrubs. Most of the birds were at eye level, and I was able to use my scope to easily scan the perched birds.

Among the throngs of Swamp, Savannah, and Song Sparrows, one of the perched birds immediately stood out from the rest. The clean buffy-gray breast and contrasting brown and white facial pattern were not representative of any sparrows typically wintering in Kentucky. After the three of us were able to see the bird adequately in the scope, we all suspected it to be a Clay-colored Sparrow. We frantically tried to snap some photos to document our sighting, but the sparrows had grown tired of us and had begun to depart. Astonishingly, Daniel had somehow managed to photograph the bird in question, confirming its identity as a Clay-colored Sparrow. It was the first time this species has been documented in Kentucky during the winter season.

– Clay Bliznick, Hartford; bliznick.birding@gmail.com



Clay-colored Sparrow – Ballard Co.
17 December 2019, Daniel Redwine

First Kentucky Record of Burrowing Owl

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a small, ground-dwelling raptor that inhabits primarily arid regions of the western portion of North America (subspecies *A. c. hypugaea*). A resident population (*A. c. floridana*) also occurs in peninsular Florida (Haug et al. 1997). The western subspecies is migratory, retreating from the northern portion of the breeding range to the extreme southern United States and Mexico during winter (Haug et al. 1997). The species preys upon a great variety of food items from insects to small mammals and birds. Loose nesting colonies often occur in areas with suitable habitat and may be associated with populations of Prairie dogs (*Cynomys* spp.), although Florida birds usually excavate their own burrow (Haug et al. 1997).

Burrowing Owl populations have declined precipitously during the past couple of centuries as humans have converted native grasslands and shrublands to more intense agricultural purposes and settlement (Haug et al. 1997). For that reason, vagrant birds outside of the normal range have declined significantly in frequency, particularly since the mid-20th Century.

On 22 February 2020, John Beachy was traveling along Dr. Boyles Road, in southeastern Todd County, when he noticed a small owl sitting next to a road culvert. Upon returning home he checked a field guide and confirmed the identification. He passed word of the observation on to Joe Hall, who went to the location the following day with Sharon Arnold. Joe and Sharon found the bird right where John had said it would be and obtained documentary photos.

During subsequent weeks, many birders were able to enjoy seeing the Burrowing Owl. It was almost always on one side of the road or the other at the culvert. It appeared to retreat into a cavity in the pavement on the edge of the right-of-way. The bird remained at this site for nearly two months when it was last seen 21 April 2020. Conversations with locals revealed that the bird had been present along Dr. Boyle Road for at least a couple of weeks, although it seems likely in retrospect that it was probably present all winter.

Analysis of the bird's plumage indicated that it originated from the western population. Its overall color was paler than Florida birds with a pale stripe down the middle of the breast that separated the profuse barring on either side of the breast. Also, some photographs taken of the bird revealed fine hair-like feathers on the legs, another character apparently diagnostic for individuals of the western subspecies (Pyle 1997). It would stand to reason that the western population would be the source for such a vagrant as that subspecies is migratory. Peter Pyle reviewed photos of the bird and felt that it was probably a second-year bird (hatched during 2019) based on feather wear, but that it was impossible to be sure without in-hand examination (P. Pyle, pers. comm.).

Winter site fidelity has been demonstrated by at least one vagrant bird that has occurred in southern Georgia for three years in a row (eBird 2020), so it is hoped that the bird might return after successfully wintering in Kentucky.

REFERENCES

- eBird Basic Dataset. Version EBD_relJul-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. July 2020.
- Haug, E.A., B.A. Millsap, and M.S. Martell. 1993. Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 61 (A. Poole and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Pyle, P. 1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Part 1, Columbidae to Ploceidae. Slate Creek Press. Bolinas, CA. 729 pp.
- Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222 (brainard@mindspring.com)



Burrowing Owl
Todd Co.
23 February 2020
Jamie Baker



“fine hair-like feathers on the legs”
Pyle 1997



NEWS AND VIEWS

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (3rd ed.) now available.

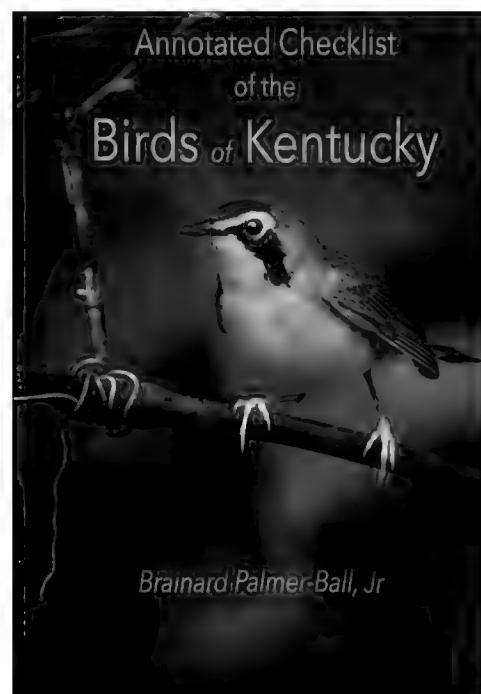
By Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(Kentucky Ornithological Society).

Paperback 276 pages. 1 August 2019.

“The 3rd edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* updates the status and abundance of 390 species that have been documented to have occurred in Kentucky. The 3rd edition has been expanded to include more detailed lists of county distribution of many less common species. Included in species descriptions are brief summaries of status, distribution, seasonal occurrence, and abundance.”

– Kentucky Ornithological Society website.



This important reference is available at meetings of the society, through Aerio Book Sales (<https://aerbook.com/maker/productcard-4886075-6955.html>) and wherever books are sold.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$5000, visit the KOS web site (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (SMarsh@Clayingels.com).

2020 grants:

- \$200 to the Garden Clubs of Warren County (Annie Holt) for environmental education materials providing information about birds, native plantings, pollinators, etc.
- \$500 to McConnell Springs (Dakota Yates) for transporting Lexington area school children to the facility for environmental education programs.
- \$500 to Mary Yandell, Louisville, to expand Audubon-related programs to specific groups in 2 additional schools.
- \$500 to Lost River Cave Education Center (Annie Holt), Bowling Green, for taxidermy (permit controlled) on 3 birds of prey and preparation of small bird specimens as skeletons for environmental education purposes.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia “Ginny” Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to KOS and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to young birders between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition to attend an American Birding Association (ABA) Summer Camp. Details about the ABA camps can be found on the ABA website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the KOS web site (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Applications should be sent to Carol Besse (csbesse@bellsouth.net). Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to KOS at a meeting, or in writing. Scholarship applications are due by May 1 each year, however grants will be subject to ABA camp’s space availability.

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$5000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS web site (<http://www.birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>) or contact Kate Slankard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (kate.slankard@ky.gov).

2020 grants:

- \$1,000 to Maggie Anderson, University of the Cumberlands, to study Prairie Warblers and other grassland species on reclaimed land, with the use of trail cameras.
- \$1,000 to Clay Bliznick, Murray State, to study the effects of the Urban Green Project in Louisville on bird populations by monitoring, over time, the changes in bird diversity at 140 locations.

Recipients of KOS grants are expected to submit research articles or summary reports, which will be published in future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Gordon Wilson Fund Grants Available

The Gordon Wilson Fund was established in honor of Dr. Gordon Wilson, respected Kentucky ornithologist and one of the three founders of KOS. Grants of up to \$ 5,000 may be requested to fund research, publication costs, and environmental education projects. Members of The Society will receive preference for funding, but others are encouraged to apply. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS web site (<http://www.birdky.org/kos-funds-scholarships-and-endowments.html>) or contact Teresa Noel by mail at 1713 Beacon Hill Rd, Lexington, KY, 40504, or via email at (teresanoel@gmail.com)





LeConte's Sparrow
Fulton Co., 31 January 2020
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Western Tanager
Jefferson Co.
12 December 2019
Jamie Baker

White-eyed Vireo
Todd Co., 26 December 2019
Alan Troyer



Varied Thrush
Jefferson Co., 10 February 2020
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Greater White-fronted Geese – Henderson Co., 5 January 2020, Charlie Crawford

The Kentucky Warbler

Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Vol. 96

AUGUST 2020

No. 3



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.....	63
THE SPRING SEASON, MARCH – MAY 2020	
Ronan O’Carra.....	64
FIELD NOTES	80
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM	81
NEWS AND VIEWS.....	82

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

birdky.org

President.....	James A. Wheat, Taylorsville
Vice-President	Teresa Noel, Lexington
Corresponding Secretary	Debby Tyson
	3601 Schochoh Road, Adairville, KY 42202-8030
Treasurer.....	Steve Kistler
	1335 Sam Goodman Road, Munfordville, KY 42765-7105
Recording Secretary	Janet Kistler, Munfordville
Councillors	
2018-2021	Clay Bliznick, Hartford
2018-2021	Mary Yandell, Louisville
2019-2022.....	Jeremy Teague, Calvert City
2019-2022.....	Ray Bontrager, Monticello
2019-2022.....	JoAnn Bochman, Beckham Bird Club representative
2020-2023.....	Meg Brown, Louisville
2020-2022.....	Steve Brown, Louisville
Past President	Jeff Sole, Frankfort
Curator.....	Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Louisville
Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC).....	Brian Wulker
	3476 Alta Vista Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211
	kbrc@birdky.org

Affiliate

Beckham Bird Club (Louisville)

The Kentucky Warbler

The Kentucky Warbler is the journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. It is published quarterly in February, May, August and November, and is sent to current members. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. Send articles, field notes and other communications relevant to *The Kentucky Warbler* to the Editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

Editor.....	Ronan O’Carra
	1212 Litchfield Lane, Lexington, KY 40513-1794
	editor.thekywarbler@birdky.org
Production Assistant.....	Steve Brown
Photo Assistant.....	Meg Brown
Editorial Advisory Board.....	Carol Besse, Blaine Ferrell

THE COVER

We thank Greg Walker for his photograph of the White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) taken 6 May 2020 in Jefferson County.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Birders,

Although we are stuck in limbo, it is heartening to see the natural world continue on around us. As most people are seeing, there's an irruption of northern finches coming into our state. We are seeing birds we don't usually see and luckily these are birds that frequent bird feeders in our own garden so some people don't have to travel far. There are a number of considerations to having birds come to the feeders.

- Providing a food source will help the birds survive the winter, and no they won't become dependent on it. One needs to maintain clean feeder areas to reduce the risk of birds contracting diseases.
- Be careful to position feeders to reduce the chance of window collisions.
- Realize that feeding will concentrate birds in a location and will more than likely entice birds of prey, especially Cooper's Hawk, to become regular visitors. It's also likely to attract introduced birds and require the use of different food and/or feeders to deter their continued presence.
- If you are lucky enough to have a rare bird visit, many birders will want to visit to try to see it.

To expand on the last note, birders are always interested in seeing a rare bird; however, having them turn up at private locations can cause angst for both parties. If the sighting is reported to eBird, an alert will be sent to subscribers noting the presence and location of the bird. From the perspective of the reporter, it is perfectly acceptable to add a note to a checklist submission to state the location is or is not open to the public. Another means for not having your sighting emailed out is to wait for a week to submit the checklist.

From the perspective of the birder looking to see the bird, I would ask that no one go unannounced to the location and ask to see the bird. One does not know the status of the location or those living there. I suggest you reach out to eBird reviewers or leaders in the birding community to ascertain the status of the location. As a group we need to ensure that all birders can post sightings knowing that it won't interfere with the daily lives of property owners or others.

Stay safe and happy birding,

Ronan O'Carra

THE SPRING SEASON, MARCH – MAY 2020

Ronan O'Carra

Climatic conditions during spring 2020 started out warmer and wetter, a continuation from the previous season, but normalized as the season went on. Temperatures during March were 5-6°F warmer than average across the state, whereas temperatures in April and May were 2-3°F below normal. Precipitation levels were variable throughout the state. March rainfall was 2-3 inches above average across the state, except in the Bluegrass Region where it was only slightly above normal. During April rainfall levels increased from one inch below average in the west to two inches above average in the east. A similar precipitation pattern was seen in May when western and central parts of the state received close to the average amounts of rain, while the Bluegrass and eastern regions of the state received two inches above normal.

Sightings are extracted from eBird with supplementary records from the BirdKy listserv. Comments about previous Kentucky bird records rely on the *Annotated Checklist* by Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2019. The species order is based on the Kentucky State List of Birds (Yandell 2019), with review species being capitalized and state firsts underlined. Highlights for the season include the continuing Burrowing Owl, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Pacific Loon, a seventh record for Neotropic Cormorant, Glossy and White-Faced Ibis, a first Bewick's Wren since 2011, and singular reports of Harris's Sparrow and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “au.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with a voice recording; “†” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details about identification or number were submitted with the report; “m.ob.” within observer initials indicates that the observation was seen by multiple observers. “per. comm.” after an observer's initials indicates that the report was personally communicated to the subsequent reporter.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK –

KBRC review required. 8 reports for the season; 4 north of Barlow, *Ballard*, 22 April (JFe, per. comm. BPa) were the first reported; 2 at Campbellsville Reservoir, *Taylor*, 26 April (ph. RKe); 2 at Bandana, *Ballard*, 29 April (ph. †SRe); 1 at Van Cleave, *Callo-way*, (TBk, per. comm. BPa); 6 at Ledbetter, *Livingston*, 15 May (DDk, per. comm. BPa); 11 at Golo, *Graves*, 20 May (TBk, per. comm. BPa); 2 at Harvey, *Marshall*, 24 May and after were apparently nesting (GBi, per. comm. BPa); 8 at Haywood, *Barren*, 27-28 May (JKi, per. comm. BPa).



Black-bellied Whistling Duck – Marshall Co.
29 May 2020, Clay Bliznick

Snow Goose – 600 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 1 March (JMe) was the highest number reported. A single bird at Basil Griffin Park, *Warren*, 15 March (RCh, DCh) was the last reported.

Ross's Goose – There were 5 reports. 3 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 5 March (MEa, HCh) was the highest number reported. 1 at Basil Griffin Park, *Warren*, 20 March (JBr) was the last reported.

Greater White-fronted Goose – 147 at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 7 March (ALy) was the highest number reported. 20 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 21 March (HCh) were the last reported.

Cackling Goose – 1 at Camp Ernst Lake Park, *Boone*, 1 March (ph. RCr) was the last reported.

Tundra Swan – There was one report of an injured bird near the Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 22 May (ph. CCr).

Blue-winged Teal – 350 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 31 March (JHa) was the highest number reported with the species being reported through the end of the season.

Northern Shoveler – More than 600 at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 5 March (MEa) was the highest number reported. 3 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 27 May (†RSh) were the last reported.

Gadwall – 750 at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 15 March (†BPa) was the highest number reported. 2 at University of Kentucky, CAFE, Research Farm, *Fayette*, 29 May (†TSa) continued into the summer season.

American Wigeon – 100 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 17 March (RSh) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 6 May (†RBo) was the last reported.

Mallard – 1000 at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 15 March (BPa) was the highest number reported.

American Black Duck – 30 at Blue Grass Army Depot, *Madison*, 1 March (DMi) was

the highest number reported. 2 in *Daviess*, 24 March (RRo) were the last to be reported.

Northern Pintail – 250 at Mud Creek, *Fulton*, 15 March (BPa) was the highest number reported. 3 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 5 April (HCh) were the last reported.

Green-winged Teal – 1000 at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 7 March (†ALy) was the highest number reported. 2 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 29 April (JBe) were the last reported.

Canvasback – 45 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 3 March (RBo) were the most reported. 1, possibly injured, northwest of Glasgow, *Barren*, 31 May (ph. †RSh) was the last reported.

Redhead – 100 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 5 March (BPa) was the highest number reported. 3 south of Hopkinsville, *Christian*, 4 May (TGr) were the last reported.

Ring-necked Duck – 200 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 17 March (†CCr) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 22 May (†VSA) was the last reported.

Greater Scaup – 25 on the Ohio river, *Jefferson*, 11 March (†PBI) was the highest number reported. 1 south of Hopkinsville, *Christian*, 20 May (ph. †JHa) was the last reported.

Lesser Scaup – 800 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 3 March (RBo) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 23 May (RSh) was the last reported.

Surf Scoter – Only 1 report of a single bird northeast of Shelbyville, *Shelby*, 24 March (†RRA, mo. ob., per. comm. BPa).

White-winged Scoter – 2 continued from the previous season at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 1 March (ph. ENa) with the last being a single bird reported at the same location 5 March (ph. ALy).

Bufflehead – 85 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 19 March (ALy) was the highest number

reported. 1 at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 10 May (ph. TNo) was the last reported.

Common Goldeneye – 55 at Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston*, 5 March (ALy) was the highest number reported. 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 12 May (†EHo) was the last reported.

Hooded Merganser – 60 at Lexington Reservoirs #2 & 3, *Fayette*, 11 March (DSv) was the highest number reported with reports recorded throughout the season.

Common Merganser – The last migratory sighting was a report of a single bird north of Madisonville, *Hopkins*, 25 March (NRo). Successful breeding was noted in eastern Kentucky with a family unit of 13 being reported at Rockcastle River, *Jackson*, 12 May (ph. DPi). Reports from *Menifee* (ph.†ECl), and *McCreary* (ph. RDe) in the same period may indicate further breeding spots.

Red-breasted Merganser – 150 at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 18 March (JTe) was the highest number reported. 2 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 15 May (ph. †JHa) were the last reported.

Ruddy Duck – 202 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 5 March (†HCh) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 20 May (LBo) was the last reported.

Ruffed Grouse – 6 Reports from *Menifee*, *Madison*, *Bell* and *McCreary*.



White-winged Dove – Fayette Co.
4 April 2020, Teresa Noel

Pied-billed Grebe – 40 at Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*, 12 March (RRo) was the highest

number reported with reports posted throughout the season.

Horned Grebe – 43 at Green River Lake SP, *Taylor*, 7 March (†BPa) was the highest number reported. 1 at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 28 April (ph. TVi) was the last reported.

Red-necked Grebe – There were a number of reports of a single bird, the only one for the season, at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 22-25 April (†TDu ph. EHo m.ob.).



Eared Grebe – Fulton Co.
16 March 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Eared Grebe – There were reports at 4 locations. 1-2 birds were reported at Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, until 21 March (ph. TNo). Single birds were reported at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 16 March (†JSn); Open Pond, *Fulton*, 16/17 March († ph. BPa, MGr); again at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 5/6 April (†HCh, ALy); 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 19 March (DRo, ph. KOe) was the last reported.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – KBRC Review Required. A returning bird to Lexington, *Fayette*, was first reported 4 April (†EMo) until 9 May (†MEr). A single bird was also reported at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 23 May (ph. †BPa).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 27 April (MEa) was the first reported. 10 at Meadow Creek, *Whitley*, 24 May (DSv) was the highest number reported.



Common Gallinule – Rowan Co.
20 May 2020, Teresa Noel

Black-billed Cuckoo – 1 nighttime flyover in Murray, *Calloway*, 2 May (†ALy) was the first reported.

Common Nighthawk – 1 near Somerset, *Pulaski*, 24 April (EWe) was the first reported. 16 in east *Jefferson*, 16 May (†MYa) was the highest number reported.

Chuck-Will's Widow – 1 southwest of Edmonton, *Metcalfe*, 19 April (au. RSh) was the first reported.

Eastern Whip-poor-will – 1 on the Sheltowee Trace Trail, *Rowan*, 23 March (CNI) was the first reported.

Chimney Swift – 1 at Beckley Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 27 March (JPu) was the first reported. 500 in Bowling Green, *Warren*, 12 May (ph. †RSh) was the highest number reported.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – 1 in Murray, *Calloway*, 31 March (†MEa) was the first reported.

Rufous Hummingbird – The last report of the continuing *Oldham* bird was 4 March.

Virginia Rail – 2 at Long Point, *Fulton*, 16 March (†BPa) was an early report for the species. 1 north of Paradise, *Muhlenberg*, 12 May (†MMo, EHo) was the last reported.

Sora – 1 at John James Audubon SP, *Henderson*, 12 March (ph. †JFa) was a record early sighting for the species. 1 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 19 May (†EHo) was the last reported.

Common Gallinule – There were reports at 2 locations. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 5 May (ph. †RSh) and 1 at Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 19/20 May (ph. VSa, NBr, TNo).

American Coot – 3000 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 23 March (†RSh) was the highest number reported with the species being reported through the season.

Sandhill Crane – 245 flying over east Lexington, *Fayette*, 3 March (KMa) was the highest number reported. 2 lingered at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, from 11 May (ph CCr) through 30 May (†RRo) which was a late sighting for the species.

Black-necked Stilt – 2 off KY 94, *Fulton*, 27 March (†JTe) was an early sighting for the species. 46 at the same location 6 May (au. †JTe) was the highest number reported.



Black-necked Stilt – Fulton Co.
24 May 2020, Rob Chadwick

American Avocet – Reports were noted from 4 counties. 15 at Basil Griffin Park, *Warren*, 17 April (ph. RSh, m.ob.) were the first reported. 42 at Oak Grove, *Christian*, 24 April (JHa, ph. TGr) was the highest number reported. 6 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 15 May (ph. RSh) were the last reported.

Black-bellied Plover – Reported in 3 counties. 1 at Horseshoe Rd. Sloughs, *Henderson*, 25 April (†BPa) was the first reported. 25 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 13 May (†BPa) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 27 May (BPa) was the last reported.

American Golden-Plover – Reported in 6 counties. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 10 March (ph. RSh) was the first reported. 75 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 9 April (†KMi) was the highest number reported. 3 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 22 May (†VSA) were the last reported.

Semipalmated Plover – 2 at Swallow Spring Pond, *Christian*, 13 April (JHa) were the first reported. 500 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 18 May (†RSh) was the highest number reported.

Upland Sandpiper – There was only one report, a single bird at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 17 April (†EHo).

WHIMBREL – KBRC Review Required. There were two reports for Whimbrel; 3 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 8 May (ph. †DLA) and a single bird at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 21 May (ph. †JTe).



Whimbrel – Warren Co.
8 May 2020, David Lang

Ruddy Turnstone – 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 6 May (ph. RSh) was an early sighting for the species. Birds persisted at McElroy lake until 20 May (ph. OZA) with numbers peaking at 11 on 18 May (ph. †BPa). Away from McElroy, 1 was reported at Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 19 May (ph. TSh).

RED KNOT – KBRC Review Required. 2 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 13 May (DRo, ph. TGr, m.ob.) were the only birds reported. This is only the fourth spring report, the last being reported in 1974.

Stilt Sandpiper – 1 at Walter Garrett Lane transient ponds, *Christian*, 21 April (MMo, ph. BPa) was the first reported. 16 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 16 May (†JWh, m.ob.) was the highest number reported. 4 south of Hopkinsville, *Christian*, 22 May (JHa) were the last reported.

Sanderling – There were two reports. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 18/19 May (ph. †RSh/†DRo, m.ob.) and 1 at Upper Bottom Road, *Fulton*, 19 May (CBI).

Dunlin – 2 off KY 2134 near Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 16 March (ph. BPa) were an early sighting for the species. 200 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 14 May (ph. CCr) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 25 May (ph. TVi) was the last reported.

Baird's Sandpiper – 1 at J Ferguson Road, *Simpson*, 21 April (ph. BPa, MMo) was the only report for the species.

Least Sandpiper – 500 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 13 May (†BPa, MMo) was the highest number reported with the species present throughout the season.

White-rumped Sandpiper – 1 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 25 April (†BPa) was the first reported with the species present through the season. 150 at Upper Bottom Road, *Fulton*, 19 May (†CBI) was the highest number reported.

Pectoral Sandpiper – 1 at Lawson-Poindexter Rd. Farm Pond, *Todd*, 5 March (†JHa) was a relatively early bird with the species present through the season. 275 at Kentucky Bend Rd., *Fulton*, 9 April (EHo) was the highest number reported.

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 2 at Swallow Spring Pond, *Christian*, 24 April (TGr) were the first reported and were a relatively early sighting. 2500 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 18 May (ph. †BPa) was a near record high number reported, which persisted for a few days.

Western Sandpiper – There were 4 reports. 1 at Hiseville Park Rd, *Barren*, 23 April

(†MMo, EHo, RSh) was the first reported; 1 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 25 April (†BPa); 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 29 April (LBo, m.ob.); 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 3 May (†BPa) was a good spring bird for central Kentucky.

Short-billed Dowitcher – 1 at Swallow Spring Pond, *Christian*, 24 April (JHa) was the first reported. 375 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 13 May (†MMo, BPa) more than doubled the previous record high for the species in Kentucky. Away from western Kentucky, 72 were reported north of Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 13 May (SPe, ph. KBi, m.ob.). 3 near Hopkinsville, *Christian*, 22 May (JHa) were the last reported. A Short-billed Dowitcher, of the subspecies *griseus*, was reported at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 3 May (ph. †BPa), this being the fourth documented record with photographic evidence.

Long-billed Dowitcher – 2 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 31 March (ph. RSh) were the first reported. 250 at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 20 April (†CBI) was the second highest number ever reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 14 May (†DRo, m.ob.) was the last reported.

Wilson's Snipe – 54 at JC Jones Rd Sinkhole Ponds, *Hart*, 7 March (JWh, m.ob.) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 14 May (†HCh, m.ob.) was the last reported.

Spotted Sandpiper – 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 29 March (ph. †BPa) was a relatively early report. 30 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 7 May (†RDe) was the highest number reported.

Solitary Sandpiper – 1 at Longview Golf Club, *Scott*, 21 March (ph. †DLA) was the first reported. 40 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 24 April (†RRo) was the highest number reported.

Lesser Yellowlegs – 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 9 March (TDu) was the first reported. 500 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber

Unit, *Henderson*, 22 April (†CCr) was the highest number reported.

Willet – 4 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 17 April (ph. †RSh) were the first reported. 53 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 29 April (ph. †JBe) was the highest number reported. 25 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 10 May (ph. †BYa, MYa) were the last reported.

Greater Yellowlegs – 160 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 9 April (†EHo) was the highest number reported.

Wilson's Phalarope – 1 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 26 March (†JHa, TDe) was the first reported. 9 at Swallow Spring Pond, *Christian*, 25 April (ph. SAR) was the highest number reported. 2 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 7 May (†RDe) were the last reported.

Red-necked Phalarope – There were reports from one location. 1-2 birds were at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 6-27 May (ph. RSh, m.ob.).



Red-necked Phalarope – Warren Co.
14 May 2020, Steve Graham

Bonaparte's Gull – 600 at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 23 March (†ALy) was the highest number reported. 80 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 25 April (RBo) were the last reported.

Laughing Gull – There were 3 reports. Single birds were seen at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 17 April (ph. †RSh); Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 19

April (ph. JTe, m.ob.) until 29 May (†BPa); Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 27 May (DSv, ph. LCo, m.ob.).

Franklin's Gull – There was 1 report of a single bird at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 13/20 May (†BPa, m.ob./†BPa, ph. RSh).

Ring-billed Gull – The species was reported throughout the season with 750 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 5 March (BPa) the highest number reported.

Herring Gull – 30 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 25 March (HCh) was the highest number reported.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – There were 3 reports; 1 at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall*, 6 March (HCh); 1 at Green Turtle Bay, *Livingston*, 13 March (CBl); 1 at KY Dam, *Livingston*, 25 March (HCh).

Least Tern – Sightings were first reported 14 May. 13 at Open Pond, *Fulton* (CBl) and 2 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 14 May (KMi). 23 at Wolf Island, *Hickman*, 23 May (CBl) was the highest number reported.



Neotropic Cormorant – Fayette Co.
30 March 2020, Corey Critchfield

Caspian Tern – 1 at Haddox Ferry Boat Ramp & Industrial Ponds, *Marshall*, 13 April (ph. TVi) was the first seen. 58 at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 10 May (†JTe) was the highest number reported.

Black Tern – 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 28 April (ph. †JBe) was the first seen. 9 at

Osprey Cove Subdivision Lake, *Shelby*, 13 May (†AHZ, LHz) was the highest number reported.

Common Tern – 2 at Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 25 April (†RBo) were the first reported. 48 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 12 May (MMo, BPa, EHo) was the highest number reported.

Forster's Tern – 58 at Crappie Hollow (Blood River), *Calloway*, 4 March (†HCh) was the highest number reported.

Red-throated Loon – There was one report of a single bird at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 25 April (ph. †RCh, DCh).

PACIFIC LOON – KBRC Review Required. There was one report of a single bird at Sledd Creek Boat Ramp, *Marshall*, 19 April (ph. †BPa).

Common Loon – 26 at Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 25 April (ph. DCh, RCh) was the highest number reported.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT – KBRC Review Required. First reported at Reservoir #4, *Fayette*, 28 March (ph. †DSv, LCo), it was subsequently relocated at Lexington Reservoir #1, *Fayette*, 29 March (ph. ROc, m.ob.) where it remained until 10 April (†DSv) providing great views for the many who came looking for it. A subsequent report was made at the Louisville Water Company Ponds, *Jefferson*, 20 April (ph. ITh, STh).

Double-crested Cormorant – 1000 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 9 April (HCh) and 21 May (HCh) was the highest number reported. Away from LBL, 200+ at Lexington Reservoir #1, *Fayette*, 29 March (ph. †ROc, m.ob.) was a large increase in numbers on a breeding colony established in 2019.

American White Pelican – 250 at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 12 March (ALy) was the highest number reported.

American Bittern – There were 4 reports. 1 at Big Eagle Creek Wetland, *Scott*, 4 April (ph.

MHI); 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 6 April (ph. JBa, m.ob.); 1 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 27 April and 1/14 May (†RRO, m.ob); 1 flyover in *Kenton* 29 April (†DMn).

Least Bittern – There were reports from 2 locations. 1 at Peabody WMA, Sinclair Unit, *Muhlenberg*, 17 April (†BNo) was the first reported with 4 further reports from there through the season. 1 at the Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 1 May (†CGi) was the first of 3 reports for that location.



Glossy Ibis – Warren Co.
20 May 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Great Egret – 1 at Lentz Pond, River Road, *Jefferson*, 10 March (ph. †EHO) was the first reported. 60 at Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 30 April (†SRe) was the highest number reported.

Snowy Egret – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 11 April (HCh) was the first reported. Reports for the season were restricted to *Trigg*, *Warren*, *Henderson* and *Lyon*.

Little Blue Heron – 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 19 April (ph. †EHO) was the first reported. 6 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 25 May (ph. RCh, DCh) was the highest number reported. Reports for the

season were restricted to *Jefferson*, *Trigg* and *Ballard*.

Cattle Egret – 1 at Reelfoot NWR, Long Point Unit, *Fulton*, 1 April (RPr) was the first reported. 35 west of Murray, *Calloway*, 25 May (HCh) was the highest number reported.

Green Heron – 3 in *Adair*, 28 March (MBn) were the first reported.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 2 at a private residence in Louisville, *Jefferson*, 18 March (†PSP) were early returning birds to a fifth-year nesting site. The pair hatched four chicks during the season.

GLOSSY IBIS – KBRC review required. There was a single report of 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 20 May (DRO, ph. †LBo, m.ob.).

WHITE-FACED IBIS – KBRC review required. There were 3 reports. A single bird was documented at J Ferguson Road, *Simpson*, 20 April (ph. RSh, JLe). A single bird was also reported at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 6 May (ph. SWa, m.ob.).

Plegadis Sp. – There were 4 reports of Glossy/White-faced Ibis that could not be identified to species; 5 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 18 April (ph. †KMi); 1 reported as a White-faced Ibis (DRO, per. comm. TDu) at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 25 April (ph. †BPa); 2 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 5 May (DRO, per. comm. TDu); 1 in *Christian* 14 May (†DHa).

Osprey – 1 at Hancock Biological Station, *Calloway*, 8 March (ALy) was the first reported.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – KBRC Review required. There was one report of a single bird in *Whitley*, 9 May (†SBw, ADp, per. comm. RDe).

Mississippi Kite – 2 in east Louisville, *Jefferson*, 29 April (ph. MYa, BYa) and 1 at Murray, *Calloway*, 29 April (ALy) were the first reported. 72 at Kentucky Bend Rd.,

Fulton, 11 May (†DRe) was the highest number on record.

Broad-winged Hawk – 1 at DBNF, *McCreary*, 28 March (†RDe) was the first reported. 88 at Louisville, *Jefferson*, 18 April (ph. †MMo) was the highest number reported.

Red-tailed Hawk – Of note for subspecies, a single *B. j. calurus/abieticola* was reported in Hickman, *Fulton*, 11 March (†HCh, MEa) and a Harlan's was last spotted in Schochoh, *Logan*, 28 March (†STy).

BURROWING OWL – The single bird near Allensville, *Todd*, was last reported 21 April (SAr).



Burrowing Owl – Todd Co.
18 April 2020, Pam Spaulding

Short-eared Owl – 1 at Talon Winery, *Fayette*, 7 March (LPa) was the last reported.

Merlin – 1 in *Hart*, 28 May (†JSo) was a late sighting for the species. The previous report to this was 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 29 April (†JBe).

Great Crested Flycatcher – 1 at Mammoth Cave, *Edmonson*, 17 April (NBr, TNo) was the first reported.

Eastern Kingbird – 1 in *Logan*, 6 April (ph. FLy) was the first reported.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, remained from 19 April (ph. JTe) until 12 May (ph. BPa) with many getting good looks at the bird during that time.

Olive-sided Flycatcher – 1 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 1 May (ph. CCr) was the first reported. 1 at Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 25 May (PNI) was the last reported.

Eastern Wood-Pewee – 1 at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 20 April (†BLE) was the first reported.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – 1 at Cave Hill Cemetery, *Jefferson*, (LPa) and 1 at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, (PPi) both 11 May were the first reported. 1 in *Oldham*, 24 May (EMe) was the last reported.

Acadian Flycatcher – 1 at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 22 April (PPi) was the first reported.

Alder Flycatcher – 1 at Bens Cliff, *Wayne*, 10 May (†LBo) was the first reported. 1 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 30 May (†RRo) was the last reported.

Willow Flycatcher – 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 3 May (†BPa) was the first reported. 7 at Hisle Farm Park, *Fayette*, 23 May (ph. †DLa) was the highest number reported.

Least Flycatcher – 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 25 April (JWh) was the first seen. 25 at Big Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 31 May (†RDe) was the highest number reported.

White-eyed Vireo – 1 at Mayfield, *Graves*, 1 April (†CBl) was the first reported. 25 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 19 April (†BPa) was the highest number reported.

Bell's Vireo – 1 at Beaverdam Slough Rd, *Ballard*, 27 April (ph. †SRe) was the first reported. 14 at Sloughs Area, *Henderson*, 25 May (ph. †JMe) was the highest number reported.

Yellow-throated Vireo – 1 heard at Mammoth Cave NP, *Edmonson*, 3 April (SKi) was the first reported.

Blue-headed Vireo – 1 at Berea, *Madison*, 19 March (ph. RBa, RFo) was the first reported.

Philadelphia Vireo – 1 at KY Higginson-Henry WMA, *Union*, 27 April (CCr) was the first reported. 1 at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 24 May (PPi) was the last reported.

Warbling Vireo – 1 at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 9 April (†KBi) was the first reported.

Red-eyed Vireo – 2 at Sheltopee Trace Trail, *Whitley*, 7 April (†CNI) were the first reported. 87 at Stephens Knob DBNF, *McCreary*, 2 May (†RDe) was the highest number reported.

Common Raven – The report furthest into the interior of the state was a single bird off the Mountain Parkway, *Magoffin*, 10 May (†ZHa). A first breeding record for *Lawrence*, 6 April (HWe, per. comm. KSI) was also notable for being the first nest in Kentucky to be built on a man-made bridge.

Bank Swallow – 1 at Somerset, *Pulaski*, 27 March (RBo) was the first reported. 200 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 10 May (KMj) was the highest number reported.

Tree Swallow – 500 at Lexington Reservoirs #2 & 3, *Fayette*, 26 April (DSv) was the highest number reported.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 2 at Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*, 19 March (ALy) were the first reported. 150 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 26 April (ph. MAu) was the highest spring count on record.

Purple Martin – 500 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 27 May (†RSh) was the highest number reported.

Barn Swallow – 1 at Lake Linville, *Rockcastle*, 14 March (†NKi) was the first reported. 1000 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 26 April (†RSh) was the highest spring number reported (1000 were reported at the same location in 1989).

Cliff Swallow – 2 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 20 March (†ALy) were the first reported. 550 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 27 April (†HCh) was the highest

number reported although a report of 2500 swallow sp. of which Cliff Swallows were noted to have been the most common at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 13 May (†BPa, MMo) was equally as impressive.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH – KBRC Review required. 2 to 3 were reported from the regular location in London, *Laurel*, and were reported through the season.

Brown Creeper – 1 at Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 29 May (†BPa) was a late sighting for the species. This location has had reports of birds found in the breeding season in the past.

House Wren – 1 at Bens Cliff, *Wayne*, 8 March (LBo) was a continuation from the previous season. The next earliest bird was 1 in *Oldham* 22 March (RFR).

Winter Wren – 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 26 April (ph. †JWh) was the last reported.

Sedge Wren – 2 at Midway Area, *Fulton*, 21 March (†MEa, HCh) were the first reported. Birds had been noted in the winter season in nearby Reelfoot and these may represent overwintering birds. The subsequent report to these was a single bird at Bogle Road, *Warren*, 21 April (au. BPa, MMo). 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 13 May (EHo) was the last reported.



Marsh Wren – Fulton Co.
30 March 2020, Daniel Redwine

Marsh Wren – 1 at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 20 March (†RRo) probably represented an overwintering bird. Away from wintering areas, 1 at Capital

View Park, *Franklin*, 18 April (†NSa) was the first migratory bird reported. 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 21 May (ph. JBa) was the last reported.

BEWICK'S WREN – KBRC Review required. Having not been seen since 2011, 1 turned up at Bowling Green, *Warren*, first noted at the beginning of May (VBr) before being documented 3 May (ph. LCo, †DSv, m.ob.). The bird remained in place until 25 May (†VBr).



Bewick's Wren – Warren Co.
8 May 2020, David Lang

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – 1 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 24 March (RDe) was the first reported.

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 1 at KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Headquarters, *Franklin*, 4 May (†KRi) was the last reported.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 50 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 18 April (†KBi) was the highest number reported. 1 at Nettleroth Bird Sanctuary, *Jefferson*, 17 May (PBe) was the last reported.

Veery – 1 in *Kenton*, 23 April (†HWr) was the first reported.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – 1 at Frenchburg, *Menifee*, 27 April (THn) was the first reported. 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 23 May (JWh) was the last reported.

Swainson's Thrush – 1 at Muhlenberg County Rail Trail, *Muhlenberg*, 19 April (†DSn) was the first reported. 35 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 16 May (†ROc) was the highest

number reported. 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, *Jefferson*, (MHb, BWc) and 1 at Campbell County Environmental Education Center, *Campbell*, (JNe) both 30 May were the last reported.

Hermit Thrush – 2 at Seneca Park, *Jefferson*, 9 May (ph. †BWr) were the last reported. 18 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 17 April (†JBa) was the highest number reported.

Wood Thrush – 1 at Mayfield, *Graves*, 8 April (†TMc) was the first reported. 20 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 25/28 April (ROc/TQu) was the highest number reported.

American Pipit – 100 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 5 March (†BPa) was the highest number reported. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 7 May (RSh) was the last reported.

Purple Finch – There were a number of reports of Purple Finches during the season. There was little detail added to confirm the reports and as such it is difficult to determine a verifiable date for last-reported.

Pine Siskin – Reports from 10 locations, all single birds. A single bird near Stanford, *Lincoln*, 15 May (JEl) was the last reported.

Lapland Longspur – There was only one report of 4 birds at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 1 March (ph. †JMe).

Grasshopper Sparrow – 1 near Winchester, *Clark*, 6 April (†NSk) was the first reported.

Lark Sparrow – 1 in Louisville, *Jefferson*, 19 April (†VSA) was the first reported. 1-4 birds were also reported in *Henderson*, *Calloway* and *Warren*.

Fox Sparrow – 1 at Rose Hill, *Oldham*, 7 April (RFR) was the last reported.

American Tree Sparrow – Few reports with sightings at only 12 locations. 1 at KY River WMA, *Henry*, (GSp) and 1 in *Oldham*, (RFR) both on 22 March were the last reported.

Dark-eyed Junco – The continuing Oregon Junco (*J. hyemalis oregonus*) at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, was last reported 16 March

(†MYa). The last report away from Black Mountain was of a single bird at Berea College Forest, *Madison*, 17 April (RBa, RFo).

White-crowned Sparrow – 1 near Mayfield, *Graves*, 17 May (ph. TMc) was the last reported.

HARRIS'S SPARROW – KBRC Review required. 1 continuing from the previous season at Kingston Rd., *Graves*, was last reported 15 March (†BPa).

White-throated Sparrow – 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 23 May (ph. TNo, NBr) was the last reported.

Vesper Sparrow – A continuation from the previous season was a single bird seen at Kentucky Bend Rd., *Fulton*, 1 March (ph. †ALy Nkl). Birds were also reported in *Daviess*, *Jefferson* (4 different locations), *Campbell*, *Calloway* and *Muhlenberg*.

LeConte's Sparrow – There was 1 report. A single bird at Sutton Road, *Fulton*, 11 March (†ALy).

Henslow's Sparrow – Recorded in 13 counties. 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 2 April (†LMc, ph. JBa, m.ob.) was the first reported. 40 north of Caneyville, *Grayson*, 14 April (ph. †JBe) was the highest number reported.

Lincoln's Sparrow – 1 at Kentucky Bend Rd., *Fulton*, 1 March (ph. †ALy) was probably a continuation from the previous season but last reported at the end of January. Away from overwintering sites the first report was a single bird at Virginia Mills Nature Center, *Daviess*, 11 April (†RRo). 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 23 May (†CBe) was the last reported.

Swamp Sparrow – 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 16 May (†EHo) was the last reported.

Yellow-breasted Chat – 1 north of Canmer, *Hart*, 18 April (†SKi, m.ob.) was the first reported. 32 at Sloughs Area, *Henderson*, 25

May (ph. †JMe) was the highest number reported.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – KBRC Review required. 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 18 May (†BPa, RSh) was the only report for the season.

Bobolink – 2 at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 20 April (CBl) were the first reported. 175 at Sutton Road, *Fulton*, 5 May (HCh) was the highest number reported.

Western Meadowlark – There were 5 reports, including 3 at Elbow Slough Road, *Fulton*, 16 March (ph. †BPa); 1 at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 20/22 March (ph. †BPa, JBr/†JTe); 1 at McElroy Lake, *Warren*, 20 March (†BPa, m.ob.); 1 near Allensville, *Todd*, 22 March (†JTe); 1 at Sutton Road, *Fulton*, 29 March (†JTe).

Orchard Oriole – 1 at Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 14 April (ph. MKo) was the first reported.



Henslow's Sparrow – Jefferson Co.
2 April 2020, Jamie Baker

Baltimore Oriole – 1 north of Glasgow, *Barren*, 17 April (SMo) was the first reported.

Rusty Blackbird – The last reported was a single bird at Jacobson Park, *Fayette*, 27 April (ph. TNo).

Brewer's Blackbird – 230 northeast of Madisonville, *Hopkins*, 23 March (ph. †BPa) was the highest number reported. 1 at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 28 April (ph. †BPa) was a late bird.

Ovenbird – 2 at Sheltolee Trace Trail, *Whitley*, 7 April (†CNI) were the first reported.

Worm-eating Warbler – 1 at Alpine Rec. Area DBNF, *Pulaski*, 9 April (RDe) was the first reported.

Louisiana Waterthrush – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 15 March (†JHa, TDe) was an early first report.

Northern Waterthrush – 2 at Broad Run Park, *Jefferson*, 14 April (†LSc) were the first reported. 1 at Turkey Run Park, *Jefferson*, 30 May (†MBr, SBr) was the last reported.

Golden-winged Warbler – 1 at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 28 April (DLA) was the first reported. 2 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 12 May (†EHo) were the last reported.

Blue-winged Warbler – 1 at Bens Cliff, *Wayne*, 29 March (†LBo) was an early sighting for the species.



Blue-winged Warbler – Owen Co.
3 May 2020, Jeff Sole

Black-and-white Warbler – 1 at Little Lick Rec. Area DBNF, *Pulaski*, 22 March (†RDe) was the first reported.

Prothonotary Warbler – 1 at Carter Dock, *Wayne*, 28 March (†LBo) was the first reported. 25 at Sloughs Area, *Henderson*, 25 May (ph. JMe) was the highest number reported.

Swainson's Warbler – 1 at Crappie Hollow (Blood River), *Calloway*, 8 April (ph. †HCh) was a record early sighting for the species.

The second report was 2 at Old Fidelity Rd. Loop DBNF, *McCreary*, 17 April (ph. RDe) which in itself was a relatively early sighting. 7 at Rock Creek Rd., *McCreary*, 9 May (†RDe) was the highest number reported.

Tennessee Warbler – 1 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 15 April (†DPa) was the first reported. 2 at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 24 May (PPi) were the last reported.

Orange-crowned Warbler – A number of March reports may be indicative of wintering birds and are included here. 1 at Rolling Hills, *Jefferson*, 6 March (ph. BPa) was a continuing bird from the previous season and was still coming to a suet feeder until 25 March (ph. †ITH, STk); 1 at Lexington Reservoir #4, *Fayette*, 6 March (†ROc); 1 at South Beargrass Creek Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 7 March (†EHo); 1 at Owensboro, *Daviess*, 26 March (†RRo); 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 28 March (†MBr, m.ob.). Spring migrants first arrived at Kentucky Lake WMA, *Calloway*, 12 April (†ALy) after which date they were regularly noted across the central and western parts of the state. 1 at Public Service Park, *Kenton*, 12 May (†EGr) was the last reported.

Nashville Warbler – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 11 April (†MEa, HCh) was the first reported. 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 24 May (†JWh, m.ob.) was the last reported.

Connecticut Warbler – 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 14 May (†CBe, RHi) was the first reported. Single birds at Sloughs Area, *Henderson*, (ph. †JMe) and northeast Lexington, *Fayette*, (†KBU) on 25 May were the last reported.

Mourning Warbler – 1 at Bens Cliff, *Wayne*, 4 May (ph. LBo) was the first reported. 1 at Louisville, *Jefferson*, 25 May (†SWa) was the last reported. A recording taken at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 23 May (au. ROc) was identified as coming from the eastern regiolect population (1 of 4 population ranges) whose breeding ground is spread from Ontario to Maine.

Kentucky Warbler – 1 at Old Fidelity Rd. Loop DBNF, *McCreary*, (RDe) and 1 at Mammoth Cave NP, *Edmonson*, (SKi) both 17 April were the first reported.

Common Yellowthroat – 1 at Reelfoot NWR, *Fulton*, 19 March (†ALy) was a probable overwintering bird. The first reported migrating bird was 1 at Old Fidelity Rd. Loop DBNF, *McCreary*, (RDe) 5 April.

Hooded Warbler – 1 at Sheltowee Trace Trail, *Whitley*, 7 April (†CNI) was the first reported.

American Redstart – 1 at Rock Creek Rd., *McCreary*, 17 April (RDe) was the first reported. 30 at Veterans Park, *Fayette*, 14 May (†SPe) was the highest number reported.

Cape May Warbler – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 19 April (†BPa) was the first reported. 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 22 May (†WAh) was the last reported.

Cerulean Warbler – 1 at Mammoth Cave NP, *Edmonson*, 12 April (BPa) was the first reported.

Northern Parula – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 26 March (†ALy) was the first reported.

Magnolia Warbler – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 25 April (†RBo) was the first reported and sightings persisted into the first week of the summer season.

Bay-breasted Warbler – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Lyon*, 27 April (LHe) was the first reported. 25 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 17 May (†KMa) was the record high number reported. 1 north of Carlisle, *Nicholas*, 25 May (†RSa, PSa) was the last reported.

Blackburnian Warbler – 1 at Lexington Cemetery, *Fayette*, 16 April (†LTh) was the first reported. Last report away from summer range was 1 at Veterans Park, *Fayette*, 25 May (†NBr, TNo).

Yellow Warbler – 1 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 11 April (HCh) was the first reported.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – 1 at Owsley Fork Reservoir, *Madison*, 25 April (JAb) was the first reported.

Blackpoll Warbler – 2 at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 19 April (†BPa) were the first reported. 1 at Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, 26 May (†MKo) was the last reported.



Blackpoll Warbler – Jefferson Co.
3 May 2020, Sunil Thirkannad

Black-throated Blue Warbler – 1 at east Lexington, *Fayette*, 12 April (†DSv) was the first reported.

Palm Warbler – 2 at Veterans Park, *Fayette*, 22 May (MSr) were the last reported.

Yellow-rumped Warbler – 1 at Cherokee Park, *Jefferson*, 22 May (†PPi) was a late date for the species.

Yellow-throated Warbler – 1 at Sheltowee Trace Trail, *Bath*, 25 March (CNI) was the first reported.

Prairie Warbler – 2 at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 4 April (PPi) were the first reported.

Black-throated Green Warbler – 1 at Big South Fork NRR, *McCreary*, 25 March (RDe) was the first reported.

Canada Warbler – 2 at Pope Lick Park, *Jefferson*, 1 May (JSp) were the first reported. The last reported away from breeding locations was 1 at Arthur K. Draut Park, *Jefferson*, 23 May (NBr, TNo).

Wilson's Warbler – 1 at Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 30 April (SRe) was the first reported.

ed. 1 in *Kenton*, 31 May (ph. ELn) was the last reported.

Summer Tanager – 1 in east Lexington, *Fayette*, 12 April (DSv) was the first reported.

Scarlet Tanager – 2 at Mammoth Cave National Park, *Hart*, 15 April (JFo) were the first reported.

Western Tanager – Overwintering bird in *Jefferson* was last reported 30 March (LSq, per. comm. BPa).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – It was a good season for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. There were many double digit reports. 1 at Han-

cock Biological Station, *Calloway*, 17 April (CBl, ALy) was the first reported. 30 southwest of Dunnville, *Russell*, 8 May (ph. JTa) was the highest number reported.

Blue Grosbeak – 1 at Calvert City, *Marshall*, 9 April (†JTe) was the first reported.

Indigo Bunting – 1 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 11 March (ph. †ALy) was probably an overwintering bird. The first migrant was 1 at E.P. “Tom” Sawyer SP, *Jefferson*, 12 April (†PPi).

Dickcissel – 1 at Open Pond, transient (restricted access, roadside viewing), *Fulton*, 5 April (†HCh) was a record early sighting for the species.

REFERENCES

eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relMay-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. May 2020.

Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Third Edition. The Kentucky Ornithological Society, 2019.

Yandell, B. 2019. 19th Report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. *The Kentucky Warbler*, 95: 112-120.

LOCATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (*Italics* indicate a county name)

Most locations are based on their eBird Hotspot Name

- Blood River = Blood River embayment of Ky Lake, *Calloway*

Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, *Marshall*

KY Bend = Kentucky Bend, w. *Fulton*

KY Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston*/*Marshall*

KY Lake = Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*/*Marshall*/*Trigg*

Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. *Fulton*
- Sledd Creek = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Marshall*

SP = State Park

SRP = State Resort Park

University of Kentucky, CAFE, Research Farm, *Fayette*, formerly Spindletop Research Farm.

WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

KEY TO OBSERVER CODES

- ADp – Alvin Draper

AHz – Allison Henze

ALy – Andrew Lydeard

BLe – Ben Leffew

BNo – Brandon Nooner
- BPa – Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

BWc – Ben Wichser

BWr – B Woerner

BYa – Ben Yandell

CBe – Carol Besse
- CBl – Clay Bliznick

CCr – Charles Crawford

CGi – Christopher Gilbert

CNi – Charles Nicholson

DCh – Debbie Chadwick

DDk – Dan Dolak	JSp – Josh Stapleton	PSp – Pam Spaulding
DHa – Debbie Hamilton	JTa – Joy Tarter	RBa – Rebecca Bates
DLa – David Lang	JTe – Jeremy Teague	RBo – Ray Bontrager
DMi – Doug Mitchell	JWh – James A. Wheat	RCh – Robert Chadwick
DMn – Don Martin	KBi – Kyle Bixler	RCr – Rodney Crice
DPa – Daniel Patrick	KBu – Katey Buster	RDe – Roseanna Denton
DPi – Diana Piep	KMa – Kevin Scott Marsh	RFo – Robert Foster
DRe – Daniel Redwine	KMi – Keith Michalski	RFr – Richard A Fischer Sr.
DRo – David Roemer	KOe – Ken Oeser	RHi – Ron Hirsch
DSn – Douglas Simpson	KRi – Keith Richardson	RKe – Richard Kessler
DSv – David Svetich	KSl – Kate Slankard	ROc – Ronan O'Carra
ECl – Elizabeth Caudill	LHe – Lorraine Hetzler	RPr – Richard Preston
EGr – Ed Groneman	LHz – Lea Henze	RRa – Reuben Raber
EHo – Eric Hope	LMc – Lindsey McMahon	RRo – Robert Rold
ELn – Elizabeth Lindemann	LPa – Lee Payne	RSa – Randall Sale
EMe – Ellen Mershon	LSc – Liz Schaffner	RSh – Rickey Shive
EMo – Ellen Molle	LSq – Lee Squires	SAr – Sharon Arnold
ENa – Eric Nally	LTh – Laurie Thomas	SBr – Steve Brown
EWe – Ethan Wells	MAu – Michael Autin	SBw – Stella Brown
FLy – Frank Lyne	MBn – Mike Breen	SKi – Steve Kistler
GBi – Gloria Birtell	MBr – Meg Brown	SMo – Sandra Moss
GSp – Gary Sprandel	MEa – Melissa Easley	SPe – Sydney Penner
HCh – Happy Chambers	MEr – Mark Ernestes	SRe – Scott Record
HWe – Harley Weaver	MGr – Mark Greene	STh – Sunil Thirkannad
HWr – Helen Wright-North	MHb – Megan Halaburda	STk – Sneha Thirkannad
ITh – Indira Thirkannad	MHl – Mason Howell	STy – Stephen Tyson
JAb – John Abrams	MKo – Maria Koukoulas	SWa – Sean Ward
JBa – Jamie Baker	MMo – Mark Monroe	TBk – Tony Black
JBe – Jamin Beachy	MSr – Michael Strother	TDe – Tammy Devine
JBr – John Brunjes	MYa – Mary Yandell	TDu – Tom Durbin
JEl – Jackie Elmore	NBr – Nancy Braun	TGr – Teresa Graham
JFa – Julia Farmer	NKi – Nancy Kitchen	THn – Troy Hutchison
JFe – James Ferrell	NKl – Niklas Klauss	TMc – TJ McGary
JFo – John Forman	NRo – Nikki Rothwell	TNo – Teresa Noel
JHa – Joseph Hall	NSa – Nour Salam	TQu – Tommy Quarles
JKi – Jason King	NSk – Nathan Skinner	TSa – Tim Salzman
JLe – Jannah Lee	OZa – Olyver Zahn	TSh – Tanner Shepard
JMe – John Meredig	PBe – Patti Bell	TVi – Tammie Vied Smith
JNe – John Neack	PBl – Pat Bell	VBr – Valerie Brown
JPu – Joseph Purdy	PNl – Patricia Noll	VSa – Vicki Sandage
JSn – Jennifer Snyder	PPi – Patrice Pittman	WAh – Win Ahrens
JSo – Jeffery Sole	PSa – Pam Sale	ZHa – Zack Hackworth



FIELD NOTES

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Report

Authors:

Gage Barnes¹, John Hewlett¹, Kate Slankard², Loren Taylor², Andrea Darracq¹

1. Department of Biological Sciences, Murray State University
2. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Extended Abstract:

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nests located on telecommunication towers (TCTs) are approximately 3-8 times higher than natural or constructed nests. Consequently, nestlings reared on TCTs may be exposed to harsher weather conditions and ultimately have lower survival rates. Additionally, adults may use more energy during food provisioning because of TCT heights, which could influence foraging or nest guarding behaviors. The objective of our study was to evaluate the influence of TCTs on Osprey nest productivity, adult foraging, and nest guarding behaviors. We observed 30 Osprey nests [TCTs (n=11), navigation daymarkers (DMs; n=10), natural substrates (NATs; n=9)] from aircraft, vehicle, or on foot. To assess differences in adult behaviors and nest success and productivity, we monitored each nest for adult foraging behaviors (i.e., number of fish delivered to the nest) and the number of successful fledglings produced throughout the 2019 breeding season. We also quantified the number of human disturbances that occurred at each nest site. Nest success and nest productivity were similar across all nesting substrates (range: 1 – 1.2 fledglings per nest). Nests on DMs received 2 to 2.6 times more fish compared to nests on NATs and TCTs, respectively. Moreover, DMs (20.2 disturbances/hr) experienced 4.7 to 65.2 times more disturbances than NATs (4.3 disturbance/hr) and TCTs (0.31 disturbance/hr), respectively. The most prolonged disturbances at nests were when photographers and birders encroached the nest such that the adult birds departed.

The height of TCTs did not appear to influence nest productivity or success. We hypothesize the potential costs associated with TCT height may be counteracted by reduced human disturbances. Moreover, though DMs had high rates of human disturbance, increased provisioning of fish to offspring may offset these costs. Consequently, there may be a trade-off between intensity of human disturbance and fish provisioning. As this study was observational, we could not assess the physical condition of the fledglings at nest departure. As a result, the differing amounts of fish delivered between the nesting substrates could have resulted in unmeasured consequences to the fledglings, such as body condition (i.e., fat stores), which correlates with greater first year survivorship and may ultimately increase reproductive output. A future study tracking Osprey post-fledgling would help elucidate potential long-term effects TCTs and other artificial substrates may have on Osprey.

Membership Application for the Kentucky Ornithological Society

We prefer that you renew on join online at www.birdky.org. That saves our volunteers time and effort. But if for some reason you can't use our online methods, use this form instead.

Please mail this form plus your dues to Steve Kistler, 1335 Sam Goodman Rd, Munfordville KY 42765. Please make checks payable to Kentucky Ornithological Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership Category (check one):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ Regular - \$15.00 | _____ Family (Contributing) - \$30.00 |
| _____ Family (Regular) - \$20.00 | _____ Student - \$10.00 |
| _____ Contributing - \$25.00 | _____ Life - \$300.00 |

Membership Total _____

Donations

- | | |
|---|-------|
| Area of greatest need | _____ |
| Monroe Fund for research in ornithology | _____ |
| Anne Stamm Fund for educational grants to educators | _____ |
| Gordon Wilson Fund to support our publications | _____ |

Total enclosed _____

NEWS AND VIEWS

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia “Ginny” Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to KOS and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to birders between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition to attend an American Birding Association (ABA) Summer Camp. Details about the ABA camps can be found on the ABA website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the KOS website (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Applications should be sent to Carol Besse (csbesse@bellsouth.net). Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to KOS at a meeting, or in writing. Scholarship applications are due by May 1 each year, however grants will be subject to ABA camp’s space availability.

At the time of publication the Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship is well funded and donations are currently closed. Donations to the general funds, and to those funds below, are still welcome.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports the education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$5000, visit the KOS website (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (SMarsh@Clayingels.com).

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$5000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS website (<http://www.birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>)) or contact Kate Slankard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (kate.slankard@ky.gov).

Recipients of KOS grants are expected to submit research articles or summary reports, which will be published in future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Gordon Wilson Fund Grants Available

The Gordon Wilson Fund was established in honor of Dr. Gordon Wilson, respected Kentucky ornithologist and one of the three founders of KOS. Grants of up to \$5,000 may be requested to fund research, publication costs, and environmental education projects. Members of the Society will receive preference for funding, but others are encouraged to apply. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS website (<http://www.birdky.org/kos-funds-scholarships-and-endowments.html>) or contact Teresa Noel by mail at 1713 Beacon Hill Rd, Lexington, KY, 40504, or via email at (teresanoel@gmail.com).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (3rd ed.) now available.

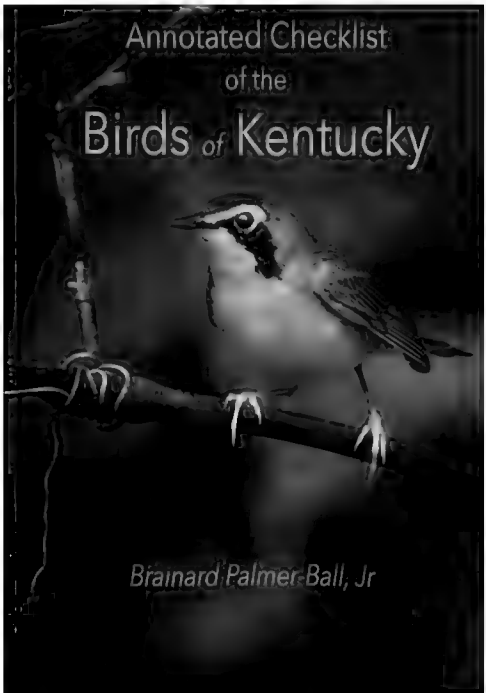
By Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(Kentucky Ornithological Society).

Paperback 276 pages. 1 August 2019.

“The 3rd edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* updates the status and abundance of 390 species that have been documented to have occurred in Kentucky. The 3rd edition has been expanded to include more detailed lists of county distribution of many less common species. Included in species descriptions are brief summaries of status, distribution, seasonal occurrence, and abundance.”

– Kentucky Ornithological Society website.



This important reference is available at meetings of the society, through Aerio Book Sales (<https://aerbook.com/maker/productcard-4886075-6955.html>) and wherever books are sold.



Ruddy Turnstone – Warren Co.
12 May 2020, Rickey Shive



Wilson's Phalarope – Warren Co.
29 April 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Lyon Co., 24 April 2020
Rickey Shive



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Jefferson Co., 23 March 2020
John Mann

Blue-winged Warbler
Owen Co., 3 May 2020
Jeff Sole



Bewick's Wren
Warren Co., 4 May 2020
Ben Yandell

Red Knot
Warren Co., 13 May 2020
Jamie Baker



The Kentucky Warbler

Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society

Vol. 96	NOVEMBER 2020	No. 4
---------	---------------	-------



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR.....	87
THE SUMMER SEASON, JUNE – JULY 2020	
RONAN O’CARRA	88
2020 FALL MEETING REPORT	96
FIELD NOTES – HENSLOW’S SPARROW REPORT	100
NEWS AND VIEWS.....	102

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

birdky.org

President.....	James A. Wheat, Taylorsville
Vice-President	Teresa Noel, Lexington
Corresponding Secretary	Debby Tyson
	3601 Schochoh Road, Adairville, KY 42202-8030
Treasurer.....	Steve Kistler
	1335 Sam Goodman Road, Munfordville, KY 42765-7105
Recording Secretary	Janet Kistler, Munfordville
Councillors	
2018-2021	Clay Bliznick, Hartford
2018-2021	Mary Yandell, Louisville
2019-2022.....	Jeremy Teague, Calvert City
2019-2022.....	Ray Bontrager, Monticello
2019-2022.....	JoAnn Bochman, Beckham Bird Club representative
2020-2023.....	Meg Brown, Louisville
2020-2023.....	Steve Brown, Louisville
Past President	Jeff Sole, Frankfort
Curator.....	Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Louisville
Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC).....	Brian Wulker
	3476 Alta Vista Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211
	kbrc@birdky.org

Affiliate

Beckham Bird Club (Louisville)

The Kentucky Warbler

The Kentucky Warbler is the journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. It is published quarterly in February, May, August and November, and is sent to current members. Membership dues are: Regular \$15.00; Contributing \$25.00; Student \$10.00; Family \$20.00; and Life \$300.00. Send articles, field notes and other communications relevant to *The Kentucky Warbler* to the Editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary.

Editor.....	Ronan O’Carra
	1212 Litchfield Lane, Lexington, KY 40513-1794
	editor.thekywarbler@birdky.org
Production Assistant.....	Steve Brown
Photo Assistant.....	Meg Brown
Editorial Advisory Board.....	Carol Besse, Blaine Ferrell

THE COVER

We thank Jamie Baker for his photograph of the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) taken 29 July 2020 in Marshall County.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Birders,

2020 is done and dusted and life is getting back to normal. It is great to see groups getting together to go birding and heartening to have nearly all of those people present getting vaccinated. The pandemic really affected people's ability to go birding and those who did, changed their birding habits by going out individually or in small pods and away from crowded areas. The KOS meetings continued to be virtual, Breeding Bird Surveys were cancelled, and rarities were seen at a distance from the birds as well as the other birders. Did this affect what birds were seen and how much birding was undertaken? It did, but not in the way one would have thought. The number of species seen in Kentucky over the previous five years had been 297, 288, 304, 304, 302 (2015-2019). In 2020 there were 312 species reported. That may have been skewed a bit by the efforts of Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. to get 303 species in the calendar year, which one can read about on the KOS website. What we did see was a continued increase in the number of dedicated birders (species seen by the Top 100 birders in the state increased from all having seen greater than 93 in 2015 to all having seen greater than 138 in 2020) as well as an increase in those new to the hobby.

We need to concentrate on those new to the hobby to keep them interested as all other things open up. We as individual birders should be looking to work with birding groups, libraries or other such community groups to lead more beginners outings. How we title or describe these outings is important so that they are more inviting to beginning birders and do not intimidate those that may be thinking of coming. We also need more walk leaders. To be a walk leader the most important things to have are enthusiasm and the awareness that you don't have to know every call or every bird. You just need to get people out there and enjoying it. So if you are part of that list of top 100 eBirders, and even if you are not, you should definitely be trying your hand at leading walks so that we can have more leaders and thus have a greater ability to engage with the community. If there are no walks being held in your area why not give it a try, we are always here to help.

Happy Birding

Ronan O'Carra

THE SUMMER SEASON, JUNE – JULY 2020

Ronan O'Carra

Climatic conditions during summer 2020 were close to average. The June temperatures across the state were within a half degree of the average temperature whereas temperatures in July were between 2-3°F above normal. Precipitation levels were variable throughout the state. The only deviations from average rainfall through the season were 1-2 inches more precipitation in the west and central regions for June and 2 inches above normal in the west for July.

Sightings are extracted mainly from eBird with supplementary records from the BirdKy listserv. Comments about previous Kentucky bird records rely on the *Annotated Checklist* by Palmer-Ball, Jr. 2019. The species order is based on the Kentucky State List of Birds (Yandell 2019), with review species being capitalized and state firsts underlined. Highlights for the season include the continuing expansion of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck into the state, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, White-winged Dove, a hurricane driven Sooty Tern and Swallow-tailed Kite.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “au.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with a voice recording; “†” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details about identification or number were submitted with the report; “m.ob.” within observer initials indicates that the observation was seen by multiple observers. “per. comm.” after an observer’s initials indicates that the report was personally communicated to the subsequent reporter.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK –

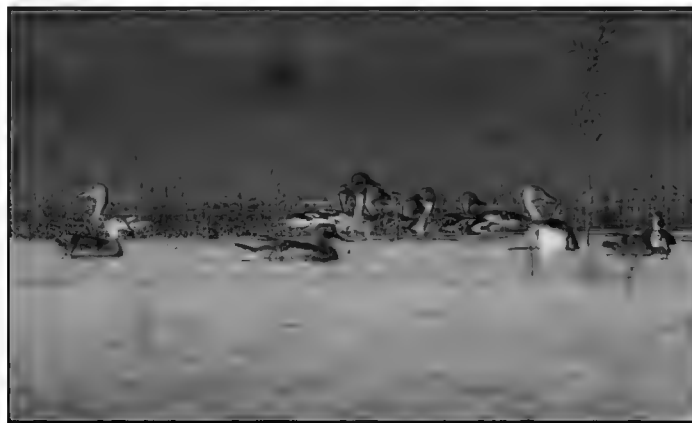
KBRC review required. The regularity of sightings of this species dictate that it be removed from the review list. There were reports from *Marshall*, *Trigg*, *Calloway*, *Metcalfe* and *Fayette*. The observation near Benton, *Marshall*, 3 June (ph. †TVi) was of 2 birds at a nest box. Nine birds were reported east of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 7 June (ph. †CHa, CHn, HHn) with all other reports being of single birds.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK – KBRC

review required. There was one report of 9 birds at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 4 July (ph. †RSt, VSt, JBe).

Mute Swan – There were three reports from *Fayette*, *Barren* and *Scott*. The provenance of those are in question as they are likely from domestic origin.

Blue-winged Teal – Successful breeding was again reported in *Christian*, with family units being seen at Morgan Pond and the vicinity from 6 June (ph. †JHa, m.ob.)



Fulvous Whistling Duck – Fulton Co.
4 July 2020, Victor Stoll

Gadwall – There were two reports. 2 birds were last reported at Spindletop, *Fayette*, 14 June (†TSa) having been a location for late birds for a number of years. The last report was of a single bird at Former Camp #11 Mine, *Union*, 23 June (†CBl, ph. BPa).

Ring-necked Duck – 1 at Upper Bottom Road, *Fulton*, 8 July (†CBl, BPa) was the last reported.

Lesser Scaup – There was one report of a single bird at Chaney Lake, *Warren*, 15 June (ph. BPa, RSh).

Common Merganser – The only report away from *Jackson*, a known breeding location, was of a single female in Carter Caves SRP, *Carter*, 13 June (ph. †TNo, NBr).

Pied-billed Grebe – There were four reports, all of single birds; 1 in *Calloway*, 2 June (†MEa); 1 at Basil Griffin Park, *Warren*, 12 July (ph. WAh, DHn); 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 28 July (†JBa); 1 northwest of Glasgow, *Barren*, 28 July (ph. RSh).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE – KBRC review required. There was one report of a single bird southwest of Benton, *Marshall*, 29 July (CBl, ph. †JBa m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo – There were two reports. A single bird at Big Bone Lick SP, *Boone*, 2 June (†ELn) and a single bird in the Red River Gorge, *Powell*, 6 June (†JDr).

Virginia Rail – There was one report of a single bird that responded to playback at Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 7 June (†TGr).

American Coot – There were two reports. A single bird at Chaney Lake, *Warren*, 15 June (†BPa, ph. RSh) and a single bird remained at Lexington Reservoir #4, *Fayette*, 19-28 July (†LCo, DSv).

Black-necked Stilt – Breeding was again confirmed with a flock of 15 containing young being reported in Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 8 July (†BPa, CBl). There was one report outside of *Fulton*, of 2 birds

at Sloughs WMA, Sauerheber Unit, *Henderson*, 2 June (ph. CCr).

American Avocet – There were two reports. A single bird was reported in the Morgan Pond Vicinity, *Christian*, 18-25 June (ph. †JHa, SAR) and a single bird was reported north of Uniontown, *Union*, 29 July (ph. CCr).

Semipalmated Plover – There were reports covering the end of spring migration and the beginning of fall migration. 2 birds at Farm Pond, *Christian*, 1 June (JHa) were the last report for spring migrants. 1 at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 29 July (BPa) was the first of the fall migrants.

Upland Sandpiper – There was one report of a single bird flushed at Open Pond, *Fulton*, 24 July (†JPo, HCh).

Stilt Sandpiper – There were two reports. 2 birds were seen northwest of Glasgow, *Barren*, 28 July (ph. RSh) and 2 birds were reported north of Uniontown, *Union*, 29 July (ph. CCr).

Least Sandpiper – There were reports covering the end of spring migration and the beginning of fall migration. The last spring migrants were reported at Farm Pond, *Christian*, 5 birds on 1 June (JHa) and a single bird on 6 June (JHa). The first of the fall migrants was a single bird at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 4 July (VSt, RSt, JBe).

White-rumped Sandpiper – There was one report. 1 continuing from May at Farm Pond, *Christian*, 1 June (ph. †JHa) and last reported on 15 June (ph. BPa).



White-rumped Sandpiper – Christian Co.
15 June 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Pectoral Sandpiper – 4 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 8 July (BP_a, CB_I) were the first reported fall migrants.

Semipalmated Sandpiper – 35 at Farm Pond, *Christian*, 1 June (JH_a) were the last reported spring migrants. 22 July was the first day for returning fall migrants with reports from 3 locations; A single bird at Horse Pond Slough, *Henderson*, (BP_a); 4 birds north of Uniontown, *Union* (BP_a); 3 birds at Camp #9 Coal Preparation Plant, *Union*, (BP_a).

Western Sandpiper – There was one report of a single bird at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 11 July (†RSt, JBe).

Short-billed Dowitcher – Returning fall birds were first reported when 2 were seen at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 8 July (BP_a, CB_I). Other reports included single birds at Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 12/19 July (ph. TNo/LCo, DS_v), 1 at Petros Pond, *Warren*, 17 July (RSh), 1 at South Beargrass Creek Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 19 July (PSp) and 1 north of Oak Grove, *Christian*, 31 July (JH_a).

American Woodcock – There were 3 reports; 1 at Mays Road, *Anderson*, 5 June (PG_b); 1 at McNeely Lake Park, *Jefferson*, 11 June (SBr, MBr); 1 at CVG Grassland, *Boone*, 10 July (TYo).

Wilson's Snipe – There was one report. 1 at Sand Slough, *Henderson*, 22 July (†BP_a).

Spotted Sandpiper – Reported throughout the season with only one account of there being young present. A single bird was first reported at Mt Zion Loop Road, *Pulaski*, 16 June (†RDe) with up to 3 young being seen on 23/24 June (ph. †RDe).

Solitary Sandpiper – The first returning birds were reported in Obion Creek WMA, *Fulton*, 7 July (HCh, JP_o).

Lesser Yellowlegs – A single bird at Morgan Pond, *Christian*, 15/18-25 June (ph. BP_a/ph. JH_a) was the last spring bird recorded. The first returning migrants were 3 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 8 July (CB_I, BP_a).

Greater Yellowlegs – The first returning birds seen were 2 at Sutton Road, *Fulton*, 5 July (TGr).

Wilson's Phalarope – There was one report. A single bird at Melco Flood Retention Basin, *Jefferson*, 29 July (ph. †JWh).

Laughing Gull – There were two reports; 2 in the vicinity of KY Lake Dam, *Marshall/Livingston*, 9 June (MMo, BP_a, m.ob.); a single bird at the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, 9 June (ph. †JBa, m.ob.).

Franklin's Gull – There was one report of a single bird at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 9 June (†MMo, BP_a, JSo).

Ring-billed Gull – Reported throughout the season mainly in the KY and Barkley Lake areas. 408 at KY Dam Village SRP, *Marshall*, 12 July (ph. †TVi) was the highest number reported.



Least Bittern – Muhlenberg Co.
3 July 2020, Steve Graham

Herring Gull – A first cycle bird was first reported at the Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, 9 June (ph. †JBa, m.ob.) and continued through the season and was joined by an adult on 14 July (†JBa, m.ob.). A second report was of up to 2 birds were reported in the vicinity of KY Lake Dam, *Marshall/Livingston*, 29/31 July (†LBo/†HCh, MEa).

SOOTY TERN – KBRC review required. A single hurricane driven bird was reported at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 9 June (†MMo, BPa).

Caspian Tern – There were reports from two locations. 2, possibly 3, birds at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 9 June (†BPa, MMo) and 2 birds at Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, 14 July onward (ph. WAh, m.ob).

Black Tern – There were four reports; 7 at Camp #9 Coal Preparation Plant, *Union*, 22 July (BPa); 1 at Horseshoe Rd. Slough, *Henderson*, 24 July (ph. CCr); 1 south of Lewisport, *Hancock*, 30 July (†BNo); 1 at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 31 July (HCh, MEa).

Forster's Tern – There was one report of 5 at Jonathan Creek Embayment, *Marshall*, 31 July (HCh, MEa).

Double-crested Cormorant – 1850 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 5 July (†DRe, ALy) was the highest number reported.

American White Pelican – All reports were from western Kentucky with 54 at Sutton Road, *Fulton*, 22 June (ph. ALy, DRe) being the highest number reported.

Least Bittern – All reports were from Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, with 4 on 3 July (ph. TGr) being the highest number reported.

Great Egret – 400 at Lake Number 9, *Fulton*, 11 July (†JBe, RSt) was the highest number reported.

Snowy Egret – There were reports from *Trigg*, *Henderson*, *Fulton*, and *Ballard*, some continuing from the previous season. 5 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 5 July (DRe, ALy) was the highest number reported.

Little Blue Heron – There were reports from 7 counties through the season. 15 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 5 July (DRe, ALy) was the highest number reported.

Cattle Egret – Reports from *Trigg*, *Lyon*, *Jefferson*, *Marshall*, and *Calloway*. 251 at Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 5 July

(†DRe, ALy) was the highest number reported.

Green Heron – 13 at Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 25 July (MEr) was the highest number reported.

Black-crowned Night-Heron – 35 at Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*, 14 July (†JBa) was the highest number reported.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – Reported in only *Jefferson* and *Marshall*. A family unit of 8 in the middle of Louisville, *Jefferson*, 11 June (†PSp) was the highest number reported.

Osprey – 22 at KY Lake Dam, *Marshall*, 29 June (DRe, ALy) was the highest number reported.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE – KBRC review required. There were two reports. A single bird was seen in eastern *Fayette*, 20 July (ph. †DSv) but did not linger. 2 were reported southwest of Benton, *Marshall*, 28 July (ph. GHo, m.ob.) and stayed through the first week of August.



Little Blue Heron – Jefferson Co.
14 June 2020, Eric Nally

Northern Harrier – 1 at Boone's Ridge, *Bell*, 3 July (†DLd) was the only sighting reported.

Mississippi Kite – 17 at Ballard WMA, *Ballard*, 5 June (†DWi, SLy) was the highest number reported.



Veery – Harlan Co.
12 June 2020, Kyle Bixler

Barn Owl – There were reports from *Franklin*, *Muhlenberg*, *Ballard*, *Logan* and *Clinton*.

Merlin – There was one report of 1 at Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*, 25 July (†MEr).

Peregrine Falcon – All reports (*Marshall*, *Mercer*, *Trimble*, *Jefferson*, *Boone*, *Fayette*, and *Livingston*) were from areas near known nesting locations.

Least Flycatcher – There was one report away from known breeding areas in *Harlan*, of 1 in Schochoh, *Logan*, 18-19 July (ph. †STy). 9 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (KBi) was the highest number reported.

Common Raven – There were two reports. 3 at Cumberland Gap NHP, *Bell*, 18 June (THo) and one in Whitesburg, *Letcher*, 3 July (LCo).

Cliff Swallow – Breeding location confirmed for *Bourbon*, 23 July (ph. RGr per. comm. ROc).

Brown-headed Nuthatch – All reports were from a known nesting area in *Laurel*. 5 at London Ranger District Office, *Laurel*, 29 July (†SBr, MBr) was the highest number reported.

Eastern Bluebird – Reports on nest box monitoring in the areas of Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area and Lake Barkley State Resort Park showed a continuing upward trend over the previous five years with an increase in fledgling numbers of 10% and 20%, respectively, over the previous year (BPe per. comm. ROc).

Veery – There were two reports. 8 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (ph. KBi) and 2 at Cumberland Gap NHP, *Bell*, 18 June (THo).

Red Crossbill – One report of 3 at Fort Campbell Military Reservation, *Christian*, June 25 (DMo per. comm. BPa)

Bachman's Sparrow – Reports from known Fort Campbell Military Reservation locations (each for separate areas), *Trigg*; 2 on June 25; 1 on June 29; 1 on July 2; 1 on July 9 (DMo per. Comm. BPa)

Lark Sparrow – Reports from three counties. Probable nesting with up to 4 continuing at McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 13 June (ph. JFa m.ob.); 2 east of Shiloh, *Calloway*, 16 June (†ALy); a single bird east of Murray, *Calloway*, (†ALy, DRe); A single bird southeast of Hickman, *Fulton*, 12 July (ph. †RSt, JBe).

Dark-eyed Junco – All reports from known breeding spots. 10 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (ph. KBi) were the most reported.

Vesper Sparrow – A single report of 1 bird at McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 27 June (†NBr, ph. TNo).

Henslow's Sparrow – Recorded in six counties. Confirmed breeding at Talon Winery, *Fayette*, where a 5 acre parcel of conserved meadow was maintained and allowed for successful fledging of young (see Field Notes). Confirmed breeding location also reported in southeast *Calloway*, 27 June (ph. †ALy). Other locations with possible nesting were 4 singing at Perryville, *Boyle*, 17 June (†MHn) and 4 at Boddie Road Prairie, *Christian*, 5 July (DRe, ALy).

Savannah Sparrow – Recorded in known breeding locations in *Fayette* and a single record at CVG Grassland, *Boone*, 10 July (ph. †TYo).

Bobolink – Confirmed new breeding location north of Stanford, *Lincoln*, 8 June (ph. †JEl). All other reports were restricted to *Fayette*, *Jessamine*, *Scott* and *Mercer*. 20 at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, *Jessamine*, 11 June (†JWa, SPe) was the highest number reported.

Ovenbird – 17 at Wolf Knob DBNF, *Whitley*, 24 June (RDe) was the highest number reported.



Kentucky Warbler – Jefferson Co.
14 June 2020, James Wheat

Louisiana Waterthrush – 7 at Land Between The Lakes, *Trigg*, 13 July (HCh) was the highest number reported.

Golden-winged Warbler – 1 on a reclamation site as part of the Golden-winged Warbler Monitoring Project, *Harlan*, 23 June (MPn) was the only report of the season.

Blue-winged Warbler – 5 at Buck Creek Trail, *Menifee*, 12 June (au. BWu) was the highest number reported.

Black-and-white Warbler – 15 at Gray's Arch/Rough Trail in Red River Gorge, *Powell*, 1 June (KBu) was the highest number reported.

Prothonotary Warbler – 25 on the Green River, *Hart*, 24 June (†JSo) was the highest number reported.



Prothonotary Warbler – Franklin Co.
22 July 2020, Jeff Sole

Swainson's Warbler – 8 at Swift Camp Creek Trail in Red River Gorge, *Wolfe*, 2 July (†ASp) was the highest number reported.

Kentucky Warbler – 11 at Mammoth Cave NP, *Edmonson*, 23 June (AHu) was the highest number reported.

Common Yellowthroat – 40 at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, *Mercer*, 3 July (†KBi, CCf) was the highest number reported.

Hooded Warbler – 51 at Wolf Knob DBNF, *Whitley*, 24 June (RDe) was the highest number reported.



Hooded Warbler – Powell Co.
6 June 2020, John Dreves

American Redstart – 12 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (KBi) was the highest number reported.



Canada Warbler – Harlan Co.
12 June 2020, Kyle Bixler

Cerulean Warbler – 9 at Wolf Knob DBNF, *Whitley*, 24 June (ph. RDe) was the highest number reported.

Northern Parula – 14 at Hematite Lake, Land Between the Lakes, *Trigg*, 13 June (BCa, DSk) was the highest number reported.

Magnolia Warbler – There was one report of the final bird of spring migration at Big Bone Lick SP, *Boone*, 2 June (†ELd, ELn).

Blackburnian Warbler – There was one report of a spring migrant at Big Bone Lick SP, *Boone*, 1 June (†ELn) and one report on probable breeding area at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (KBi).

Chestnut-sided Warbler – All reports were from known breeding areas. 11 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (KBi) was the highest number reported.

Black-throated Blue Warbler – All reports were from known breeding areas. 6 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (KBi) was the highest number reported.

Canada Warbler – 2 at Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 12 June (ph. †KBi) were the only birds reported.

Scarlet Tanager – 29 at Wolf Knob DBNF, *Whitley*, 24 June (RDe) was the highest number reported.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – Continuing birds in *Boone* produced a number of fledglings 26 June (ph. †KCi) with all other reports being from the higher elevations in *Harlan*.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak – Boone Co.
12 July 2020, Kathy Caminiti

Dickcissel – 23 at Lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 8 July (CBl, BPa) was the highest number reported.

REFERENCES

eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relDec-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Dec 2020.

Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Third Edition. The Kentucky Ornithological Society, 2019.

Yandell, B. 2019. 19th Report of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. *The Kentucky Warbler*, 95: 112-120.

LOCATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS (*Italics* indicate a county name)

Most locations are based on their eBird Hotspot Name

CVG = Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport	NHP = National Historical Park
DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest	Sledd Creek = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, <i>Marshall</i>
Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, <i>Marshall</i>	SP = State Park
KY Dam = Kentucky Dam, <i>Livingston/Marshall</i>	SRP = State Resort Park
KY Lake = Kentucky Lake, <i>Calloway/Marshall/Trigg</i>	University of Kentucky, CAFE, Research Farm, <i>Fayette</i> , formerly Spindletop Research Farm.
Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. <i>Fulton</i>	WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

KEY TO OBSERVER CODES

AHu – Aaron Hulsey	HCh – Hap Chambers	NBr – Nancy Braun
ALy – Andrew Lydeard	HHn – Heather Hawn	PGb – Pamela Graber
ASp – Andrew Spencer	JBa – Jamie Baker	PSp – Pam Spaulding
BCa – Beverly Carrico	JBe – Jamin Beachy	RDe – Roseanna Denton
BNo – Brandon Nooner	JDr – John Dreves	RGr – Rex Graham
BPa – Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.	JEl – Jackie Elmore	ROc – Ronan O'Carra
BPe – Bob Peak	JFa – Julia Farmer	RSh – Rickey Shive
BWu – Brian Wulker	JHa – Joseph Hall	RSt – Ruben Stoll
CBl – Clay Bliznick	JPo – Josh Powell	SAr – Sharon Arnold
CCf – Corey Critchfield	JSo – Jeffery Sole	SBr – Steve Brown
CCr – Charles Crawford	JWa – Johnny Walker	SLy – Sean Lyon
CHa – Christian Hawn	JWh – James Wheat	SPe – Sydney Penner
CHn – Conway Hawn	KBi – Kyle Bixler	STy – Stephen Tyson
DHn – D A Hamilton	KBu – Katey Buster	TGr – Teresa Graham
DLd – David Ledford	KCi – Kathy Caminiti	THo – Tully Hochhausler
DMo – Daniel Moss	LBo – Lyle Bontrager	TNo – Teresa Noel
DRe – Daniel Redwine	LCo – Lisa Combs	TSa – Tim Salzman
DSk – Donna Stricklin	MBr – Meg Brown	TVi – Tammie Vied Smith
DSv – David J Svetich	MEa – Melissa Easley	TYo – Travis Young
DWi – David Willard	MEr – Mark Ernestes	VSt – Victor Stoll
ELd – Edna Lindemann	MHn – Martina Hines	WAh – Win Ahrens
ELn – Elizabeth Lindemann	MMo – Mark Monroe	
GHo – Gloria Hollifield	MPn – Michael Patton	



KOS 2020 Virtual Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS) was held over the weekend of September 18-20. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the KOS board felt it would be too risky to have an in-person meeting, so they hosted the next best thing – a virtual meeting filled with activities for young and old.

The kick-off to the meeting weekend started on Wednesday, September 16, with the start of the “Migration Mania Tournament.” Thirty-two of our most beloved migrants were featured, with online voting for the favorite. Voting took place each day until Sunday when the favorite migrant was announced; Sandhill Crane triumphed over Common Nighthawk in the final match-up.



Visitors were able to access Day One activities on Friday, September 18. The meeting started out with a welcome message from KOS President, James Wheat. Each day participants were encouraged to “Go Birding” with necessary precautions and complete eBird reports. A list was compiled from everyone’s reports for a state meeting total of 173 species. Also featured daily were “Steve’s Bird Quizzes.” Steve Kistler enjoys preparing these for our regular member meetings in addition to one for each day of the virtual meetings.

Day One featured several video or slide show presentations. Pam Spaulding continued her streak of impressive and entertaining videos with the whimsical *Birders Just Want to Have Fun*. Kate Slankard, an avian biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, gave a video report on the status of *Barn Owls in Kentucky* and described conservation efforts aimed at supporting a healthy population.

Freya McGregor, Outreach Coordinator for the radio show and podcast *Ray Brown’s Talkin’ Birds*, offered some tips for making all kinds of birders – including birders with disabilities, birders who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color, and birders who identify as LBGTQIA+ – feel welcome, respected, and safe in *Birding is for EveryBODY, Part 1*.

Janet Kistler offered a slide show for kids as we approach peak monarch migration in the state: *Identifying Monarch Butterflies*. Jeff Sole shared some of his exquisite photos of non-birds with *Dragonflies & Damselflies – More Winged Critters!!* Finally, James Wheat presented rules for *Bird Banding Codes* in a video, along with some practice quizzes.

Day Two featured our Keynote Speaker, Todd Fear, with his presentation, *Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture – Overview and Focal Landscapes*. Todd joined the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV) in 2010 as the Science Coordinator and became Coordinator in 2012. In his presentation, he discussed the work of the AMJV, which includes parts of 12 states including southeastern Kentucky. Working with government agencies and NGO partners, they are addressing the conservation needs of priority species such as Whip-poor-wills and Cerulean Warblers.

We were delighted to have a presentation by Doug Wechsler, *Discover One Bird, Save a Thousand*. Doug is a nationally recognized, award-winning nature photographer and author. He ran the world's most comprehensive collection of bird photographs at the Academy of Natural Sciences for 28 years. He has authored dozens of children's nature books, including *The Hidden Life of a Toad* and the *Really Wild Life* series. Doug's program for KOS showed how the discovery of a new species of antpitta in Ecuador catalyzed the formation of a national system of wildlife refug-

es. Today, the Jocotoco Foundation protects over 50,000 acres of tropical habitat, home to over one thousand bird species.

Other presentations on Day Two included a slideshow of photos from David Lang, *Kentucky Fauna and a Comet*. There was a report from Gage Barnes, KOS Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund grant recipient, called *Assessing the Influence of Telecommunication Towers on Osprey Nesting in Western Kentucky*. In this video, Gage provides results from his study to determine how osprey nesting success is affected by the presence of telecommunication towers.

Freya McGregor offered more ideas for being inclusive and welcoming in *Birding is for EVERYbody, Part 2*. She included examples of programs which are leading the way. James Wheat provided a challenge to rename birds which have been named after people. Some in the birding community believe that it would be better to have bird names which are more descriptive than the honorifics. James created the interactive *Bird Names for Birds* to allow participants to suggest better names.

Day Three offered a range of activities. Steve and Janet Kistler contributed a video, *Wildflower Rambles*, that featured some of the glorious September blooms at Mammoth Cave National Park. Jeff Sole provided a slide show of fascinating nonbird critters he has photographed with *Some Other Winged Creatures to Enjoy*. James Wheat showed how to use easily-learned notation to quickly count species in the field in *Dot and Dash Tally*.

Two KOS members made fascinating videos for the weekend. Steve Tyson created *One Small Place*, which chronicles the changes his family has made on their property to make it more attractive to wildlife. Keeping detailed records, they have shown a remarkable increase in species, with changes that were easy to implement. Barbara Brand provided vicarious thrills with a video of a recent trip in *Birds of New Zealand*. In addition to birds, she and her husband included fascinating cultural and artistic content.

David Lang reported about efforts of the Central Kentucky Audubon Society (CKAS) to protect nesting sites of Henslow's Sparrows at Talon Winery this summer. Working with the winery, they were able to prevent mowing on part of a field to protect the sites. They were thrilled to document evidence of successful nesting.

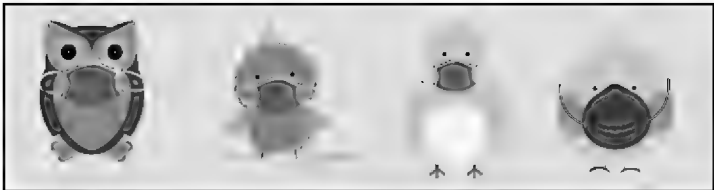
Freya McGregor presented a video about "Plirding" (Picking Up Litter While Birding). It is an easy thing to incorporate into your regular outings to help make a difference. She gave a quick rundown of different ways you can go plirding, and why this makes a difference to the birds we love. Learn more at <https://www.talkinbirds.com/plirding>.

The virtual meeting featured some family content, including some presentations which were previously described, a birding bingo game (Birdo!) and a bird scavenger hunt. We wanted to provide activities to involve children, young adults, and beginning birders of any age. We hope some families took advantage of these offerings.

KOS has elections for board members and officers at our fall meetings. This year, we did things a little differently. Debby Tyson coordinated voting for the slate of candidates via email and mail. The newly elected board members can be found on the front page of the *Warbler*.



Many people worked to make the meeting a success. KOS President James Wheat and Vice-President Teresa Noel spear-headed the project and recruited contributors. Steve Brown is the wizard behind the technology. He designed the website, worked with presenters to develop their programs, wrote the copy, and came up with fantastic ideas for the weekend, ably assisted by Meg Brown, who also did a tremendous amount of work, including compiling photos. They both put in many, many hours to make the meeting a success. Steve and Janet Kistler helped with ideas, managed the Migration Mania tournament, offered opinions, and contributed content and graphics. We want to recognize and thank all the contributors, whose work is described above.



Development Team’s Masked Bird Avatars

Interactive elements of the meeting made it more meaningful and fun. There were 519 unique visitors to the meeting site, with an average of 2.2 visits each. Visitors submitted many positive comments and fantastic bird photos each day of the virtual meeting. A total of 173 species were reported by birders from all over the state for the weekend tally – pretty impressive for fall!

If you would like to check out some of the meeting’s content, go to <https://browndogdata.com/kosfall2020meeting/index.html> or find the link on the KOS home page: <https://birdky.org>

While we couldn’t meet in person, this was a very successful endeavor. If we can’t meet safely in the spring, we’ll do it again!

Submitted by Janet Kistler, KOS Recording Secretary

FALL, 2020, KOS MEETING STATEWIDE BIRD LIST (173 SPECIES)

Ross's Goose	Black-bellied Plover	American White Pelican
Canada Goose	American Golden-Plover	Great Blue Heron
Wood Duck	Semipalmated Plover	Great Egret
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer	Snowy Egret
Gadwall	Sanderling	Little Blue Heron
Mallard	Baird's Sandpiper	Green Heron
Northern Pintail	Least Sandpiper	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Green-winged Teal	Pectoral Sandpiper	Black Vulture
Redhead	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Turkey Vulture
Hooded Merganser	Wilson's Snipe	Osprey
Northern Bobwhite	Spotted Sandpiper	Northern Harrier
Wild Turkey	Solitary Sandpiper	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Pied-billed Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	Cooper's Hawk
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	Lesser Yellowlegs	Bald Eagle
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Ring-billed Gull	Red-shouldered Hawk
Mourning Dove	Herring Gull	Broad-winged Hawk
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Caspian Tern	Red-tailed Hawk
Chimney Swift	Black Tern	Eastern Screech-Owl
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Forster's Tern	Great Horned Owl
Sora	Double-crested Cormorant	Barred Owl

Belted Kingfisher
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Red-headed Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 American Kestrel
 Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
 Acadian Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Kingbird
 White-eyed Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Philadelphia Vireo
 Warbling Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Fish Crow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Horned Lark
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
 Tree Swallow
 Bank Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 House Wren
 Sedge Wren
 Marsh Wren

Carolina Wren
 European Starling
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Northern Mockingbird
 Eastern Bluebird
 Veery
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Cedar Waxwing
 House Sparrow
 House Finch
 Purple Finch
 American Goldfinch
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Eastern Towhee
 Yellow-breasted Chat
 Bobolink
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Baltimore Oriole
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Common Grackle
 Ovenbird
 Worm-eating Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 Golden-winged Warbler
 Blue-winged Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Mourning Warbler
 Kentucky Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat

Hooded Warbler
 American Redstart
 Cape May Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Magnolia Warbler
 Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 Wilson's Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Dickcissel



Yellow Warbler – Jefferson Co.
 11 June 2020, Ron Hirsch



FIELD NOTES

**Protecting Established Henslow's Sparrow
Breeding Colonies Through Selective Haying**

Last June, Katey Buster, a member of the Central Kentucky Audubon Society (CKAS), noticed a breeding colony of at least eight Henslow's Sparrows in a hayfield about to be mowed at Talon Winery and Vineyards in Fayette County. Henslow's Sparrows are a high priority for grassland

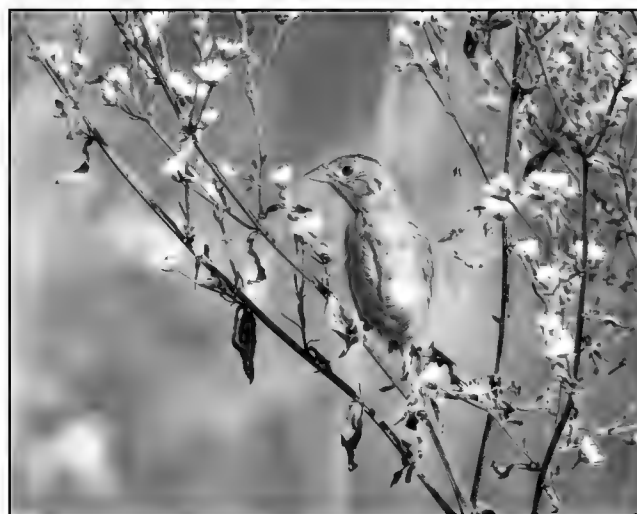


Henslow's Sparrow
Fayette Co. – 2 July 2020, Rob Chadwick

bird conservation, listed as both a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and a Conservation Concern Score of 14 on the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's *State of the Birds* report. Talon Winery and Vineyards covers a total of 295 acres including the vineyards, three small ponds, an ephemeral creek, and a few barns, silos, and commercial facilities, but consists primarily of large rolling managed hayfields. In an effort to protect the birds, CKAS asked Talon to stake off roughly five acres of field habitat and reserve it from mowing until the end of July. Although this acreage is much less than researchers recommend for Henslow's Sparrow conservation efforts, several pairs successfully fledged young.

Much has been written regarding the habitat selection and space requirements of Henslow's Sparrows and other grassland bird species. As grassland habitat becomes more and more fragmented and/or lost to development and row-cropping, understanding specific species' minimum requirements for breeding success can help focus conservation efforts. Previous Henslow's Sparrows studies found that the birds prefer areas characterized by herbaceous cover like grasses or sedges with ample uncompressed plant litter, nearby sources of moisture, and the presence of singing perches in the spring (Robins 1971)—habitat akin to that the birds had adopted at Talon. Reports of minimum acreage needed for breeding success vary: Herkert (1994) found no Henslow's Sparrows breeding pairs adopted fragmented habitat patches of less than 100 hectares, Hanson (1994) noted pairs adopting patches of only 23.1 ha, and Samson (1980) indicated that the species would adopt patches of 9 ha and larger. Further, research on delaying mowing indicated that Henslow's Sparrows need at least seventy-five contiguous acres to successfully raise broods (Mazur 1996) - significantly more than the approximately two hectares reserved at Talon.

In Herkert's exhaustive summary of Henslow's Sparrow research (1998), there are no examples of the species successfully raising broods in less than eight hectares, casting doubt that protecting such a small acreage would be enough for the birds to successfully rear offspring. In order to give the birds at Talon the best chance of success, CKAS members walked the fields and staked off boundaries at least fifty yards from any perched singing



Henslow's Sparrow – Fledgling
Fayette Co. – 29 July 2020, David Lang

FIELD NOTES

sparrow to create a small protective buffer for the birds. The marked area comprised roughly five acres of grassed hillside moderately sloping down to the edge of an ephemeral mucky puddled low spot; this damp area was not included in the final reserved boundary. All neighboring areas, including the neighboring moisture patch, were subsequently hayed.

CKAS members and other birders monitored the fields for the next several weeks, sometimes watching from the edges and sometimes watching from blinds. Haying up to the edge of the marked tract did not have a discernible effect on the total numbers nor the breeding behaviors of the Henslow's Sparrows present; Henslow's continued to perch and sing in the unmowed area. By July, several eBird counts indicated that the birds successfully produced offspring despite the small amount of non-mowed acreage allotted to them: birders observed and photographed adults carrying fecal sacs and adults feeding fledged juveniles. After the fields and previously reserved habitat were hayed in early August, the birds dispersed.



Henslow's Sparrow – Carrying Fecal Sac
Fayette Co. – 10 July 2020, Ward Ransdell

These results are notable because they indicate that efforts to preserve even small tracts of managed hayfield habitat, through delayed mowing of carefully selected areas, can help to sustain the population of Henslow's Sparrows and may provide a potential avenue for conservation efforts of near-threatened species.

Submitted by Tony Brusate, President of Central Kentucky Audubon Society.

REFERENCES

- Hanson, L. G. 1994. *The Henslow's Sparrow (Ammodramus henslowii) of Minnesota: population status and breeding habitat analysis*. M.S. thesis. Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan. 29 pages.
- Herkert, J. R. 1994. *The effects of habitat fragmentation on midwestern grassland bird communities*. *Ecological Applications* 4:461-471.
- Herkert, J. R. 1998 (revised 2002). *Effects of management practices on grassland birds: Henslow's Sparrow*. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND. 17 pages.
- Mazur, R. 1996. *Implication of field management for Henslow's Sparrow habitat at Saratoga National Michigan Natural Historic Park*, New York. M.S. thesis. University of New York, Syracuse, New York. 33 pp.
- Robins, J. D. 1971. *A study of the Henslow's Sparrow in Michigan*. *Wilson Bulletin* 83:29-48.
- Sampson, F. B. 1980. *Island biogeography and the conservation of nongame birds*. *Proceedings from the Forty-Fifth North American Wildlife Conference*. 293-299.



NEWS AND VIEWS

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia “Ginny” Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to KOS and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to birders between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition to attend an American Birding Association (ABA) Summer Camp. Details about the ABA camps can be found on the ABA website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the KOS website (<https://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Applications should be sent to Carol Besse (csbesse@bellsouth.net). Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to KOS at a meeting, or in writing. Scholarship applications are due by May 1 each year, however grants will be subject to ABA camp’s space availability.

At the time of publication the Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship is well funded and donations are currently closed. Donations to the general funds, and to those funds below, are still welcome.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports the education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$5000, visit the KOS website (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (SMarsh@Clayingels.com).

Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$5000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS website (<https://birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>)) or contact Kate Slankard, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (kate.slankard@ky.gov).

Recipients of KOS grants are expected to submit research articles or summary reports, which will be published in future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Gordon Wilson Fund Grants Available

The Gordon Wilson Fund was established in honor of Dr. Gordon Wilson, respected Kentucky ornithologist and one of the three founders of KOS. Grants of up to \$5,000 may be requested to fund research, publication costs, and environmental education projects. Members of the Society will receive preference for funding, but others are encouraged to apply. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the KOS website (<http://www.birdky.org/kos-funds-scholarships-and-endowments.html>) or contact Teresa Noel by mail at 1713 Beacon Hill Rd, Lexington, KY, 40504, or via email at (teresanoel@gmail.com).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (3rd ed.) now available.

By Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

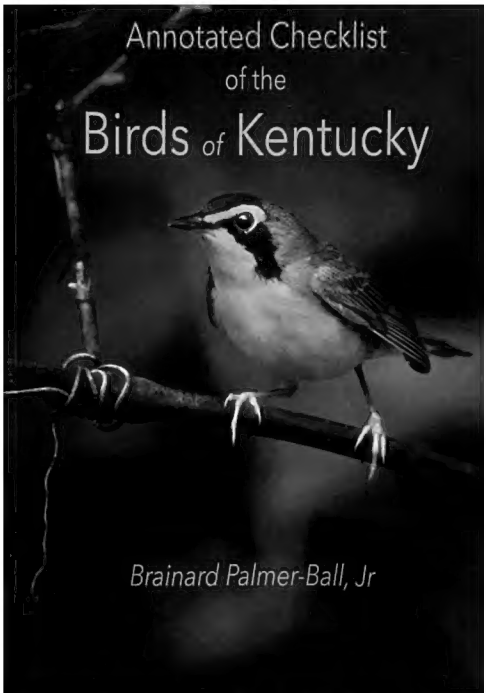
(Kentucky Ornithological Society).

Paperback 276 pages. 1 August 2019.

“The 3rd edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* updates the status and abundance of 390 species that have been documented to have occurred in Kentucky. The 3rd edition has been expanded to include more detailed lists of county distribution of many less common species. Included in species descriptions are brief summaries of status, distribution, seasonal occurrence, and abundance.”

– Kentucky Ornithological Society website.

This important reference is available at meetings of the society, through Aerio Book Sales (<https://aerbook.com/maker/productcard-4886075-6955.html>) and wherever books are sold.



Yellow-breasted Chat – Owen Co.
16 June 2020, Dan Patrick



Swallow-tailed Kites – Marshall Co.
29 July 2020, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Least Tern
Henderson Co., 17 June 2020
Charlie Crawford

Blue Grosbeak
Metcalf Co., 25 July 2020
Teresa Noel



Grasshopper Sparrow
Mercer Co., 17 June 2020
Katey Buster

Northern Bobwhite
Mercer Co., 18 June 2020
Chuck Velios



Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Boone Co., 12 July 2020
Kathy Caminiti